

# STARS AND STRIPES®

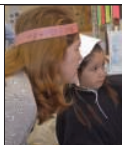
**Feel the holiday spirit at Christmas markets**

Travel magazine inside



**Brothers clash in Cowboys-Bears Thanksgiving game**

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**Pupils, parents gobble up Turkey Day history, meal**

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Kelsey Barbosa, 8, with mom Ramona

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2004

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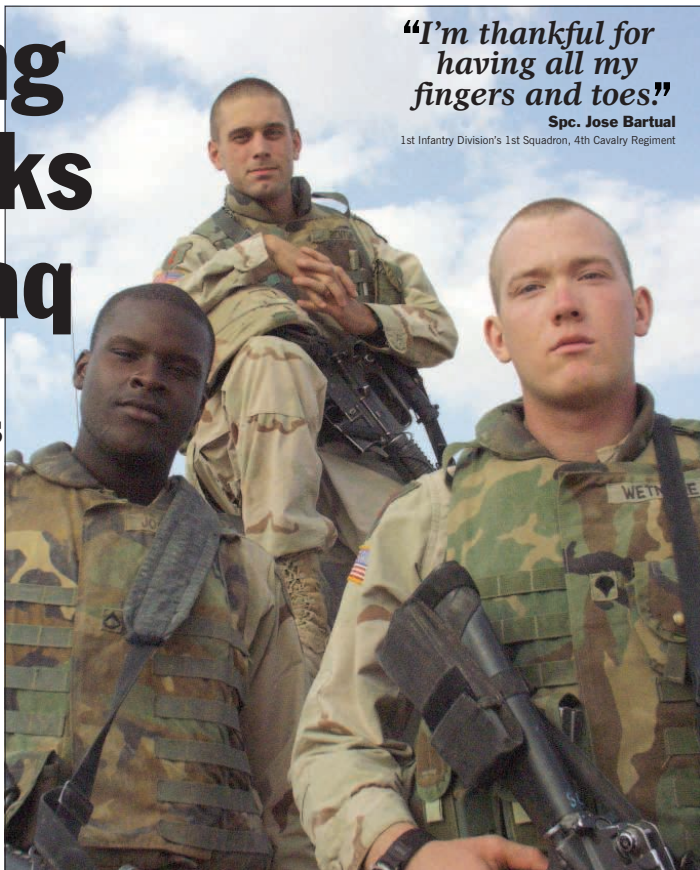
## Giving thanks in Iraq

**Close calls leave troops counting their blessings**

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The sappers from Company B of the 9th Engineer Battalion have suffered more than their share of close calls, from mine explosions to mortar attacks to firefights. Their job is to find and identify roadside bombs before the bombs blow up, which exposes them to added risk. They are, from left: Pfc. Denaumbe Joshua, 20, of Washington, D.C.; Sgt. Jason Benton, 25, of Fortuna, Calif.; and Spc. Steve Wetmore, 20, of Union City, Pa.

STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes



*"I'm thankful for having all my fingers and toes!"*

**Spc. Jose Bartual**

1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment

STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Preppie killer arrested:** "Preppie Killer" Robert Chambers, who was released from state prison last year, has been arrested on charges of driving with a suspended license and criminal drug possession.

Chambers was arrested during a traffic stop Tuesday at about 7:20 p.m. at Harlem River Drive and East 132nd Street in Harlem, New York. Police said that his car had no inspection sticker, and that they found a suspected illegal substance which was being tested on Wednesday.

Chambers confessed in 1988 to strangling 18-year-old Jennifer Levin two years earlier during a tryst in Central Park. He was released from the Auburn Correctional Facility on Valentine's Day 2003, after serving a 15-year sentence.

**Evidence challenge:** Defense attorneys for a Palestinian former professor accused of terrorism in Tampa, Fla., want a federal judge to throw out almost all the government's evidence, saying improper searches and inappropriate surveillance violated their client's constitutional rights.

Attorneys William Moffitt and Linda Moreno said in separate motions filed this week that federal agents made vague allegations to justify search warrants and may have erred in targeting Sami Al-Arian, a former professor at the University of South Florida, for surveillance.

Al-Arian and eight other men are charged with material support for terrorism, racketeering and money laundering. Al-Arian's trial is scheduled to begin in April.

**Simpson memorabilia:** A memorabilia collector was ordered to turn over O.J. Simpson's press credentials from the 1984 Olympics in another tiny step toward satisfying a \$33.5 million award in a lawsuit that found Simpson liable for the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend.

The order was issued in Santa Monica, Calif., after a closed-door court hearing to determine whether Simpson, a National Football League Hall of Famer who later turned to acting, is hiding assets from the family of Ron Goldman, who was slain with Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994.

**Oscar screener:** A former member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences accused of leaking "screener" copies of movies was fined \$300,000, the maximum allowed under federal law.

Carmine Caridi, 70, has told criminal investigators he sent VHS copies of about 60 movies he received each year to 51-year-old Russell Sprague, who converted the VHS tape into DVD format and then sent the originals back to Caridi, authorities said.

Movie studios routinely send copies of films to Academy members, who view them in their homes as they prepare to vote in various categories for the annual Academy



**FAO Schwarz bankruptcy:** Young children are greeted Monday by characters from FAO Schwarz outside the store on New York's Fifth Avenue. FAO Schwarz, the toy store known for its life-sized stuffed animals and kid-sized sports cars, hopes its refurbished Manhattan store reopening on Thanksgiving Day will cause children to squeal with joy and adults to open their wallets, as the company emerges from bankruptcy recommitted to high-end toys.

## Awards

**Jet ski death:** A California man whose wife died after the couple was stranded from what he said was a watercraft accident has been charged with killing her, more than a month after authorities first arrested him for the crime and then set him free.

Corbin Easterling, 35, was charged Tuesday with homicide, spousal battery and inflicting great bodily injury on Jennifer Easterling, 35.

Easterling was first arrested Oct. 14 but was freed four days later after prosecutors said they needed more information and time to investigate his wife's Oct. 12 death. Further interviews and autopsy results led them to say they had sufficient evidence to convict him.

**Health registry analysis:** The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene said most people enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Registry reported one or more respiratory problems that started or became worse after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The quarterly report, released Monday, also said eight percent of the 70,000 enrolled adults experienced psychological distress in the 30-day period before being interviewed for the registry.

## World

**Independent aid group in Fallujah:** The first independent aid group to enter the Iraqi city of Fallujah after two weeks of fighting saw some civilians, but had to turn

back before delivering any assistance because of security concerns, the international Red Cross said Tuesday.

Ahmed Rawi, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said he was still awaiting a full report of the Iraqi Red Crescent on what it encountered, but was able to confirm that the convoy had entered Fallujah on Monday. He said the convoy, which consisted of ambulances and three trucks loaded with blankets, drinking water and first-aid kits, saw a few civilians before having to turn back.

**Consular office reopens:** The U.S. Embassy on Wednesday reopened its consular office in Bombay, India, after shutting it for a day following a threat of a possible terrorist attack.

The Bombay offices reopened after a thorough security review, an embassy statement said.

Security around the American consulate was tightened Tuesday after the U.S. government warned that terrorists may be planning attacks on U.S. interests in India.

**Quake housing:** Hundreds of people living in public shelters following last month's earthquake in northern Japan began moving to temporary government-built homes on Wednesday.

The magnitude-6.8 earthquake on Oct. 23 and several large aftershocks in Niigata prefecture killed 40 people and damaged over 16,000 homes. About 6,000 people are still living in school gymnasiums and other public shelters.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# Comics, advice and horoscope every day in Stars and Stripes

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Left: As Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe, right, watches, Task Force Eagle's Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Severe rolls the task force's colors held by Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright, the final task force commander. Right: Brig. Gen. Wright passes the cased Task Force Eagle guidon to Gen. Bell during the task force's disestablishment ceremony Wednesday at Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina.



JASON L. AUSTIN/Courtesy of U.S. Army

# Mission's over for U.S. troops in Bosnia

Furling of colors at Eagle Base signals end to American presence; EU takes over in December

BY KENT HARRIS  
Stars and Stripes

EAGLE BASE,  
Bosnia-Herzegovina

It was part reunion, part celebration. A look back at the past. A hopeful glance into the future.

A ceremony nine years in the making took place Wednesday at the sprawling base camp in the Balkans that thousands of Americans have called home during the last decade.

Task Force Eagle — the primary U.S. mission in Bosnia — is no more.

"This ceremony officially means mission complete," Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe, told a gymnasium full of American and allied personnel — or at least as full as it gets in Bosnia-Herzegovina these days. "And mission accomplished."

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Se-

vere furlled the mission colors as Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright held the flag. And, just like that, the mission was, at least symbolically, completed.

U.S. soldiers will still be on the ground for a short time. But all but about 250 will be home in plenty of time to spend Christmas with their families. The remainder will continue serving under NATO auspices, even as the European Union assumes responsibility for the mission in country.

Stabilization Force, which would mark its eight-year birthday in December, won't make it that far. Its last day of existence is Dec. 2, that's when the EU officially takes over in a ceremony in Sarajevo.

Just about all the American contingency could be gone by then. Much of the current rotation — SFOR 15 — is already back in the States. A few hundred left Oct. 31. More flew out Nov. 15.

This rotation has been longer



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Five of the 15 commanders of Task Force Eagle meet Wednesday before a ceremony marking the disestablishment of the mission at Eagle Base in Bosnia-Herzegovina. From left they are: Maj. Gen. Robert Halverson, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Maj. Gen. James Mason, Brig. Gen. Richard Nash and Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright. Some U.S. troops will stay in country to support NATO operations, but all but 250 American troops will be out of the country within a few weeks.

than most. Headed by the 38th Infantry Division of the Indiana National Guard, about 950 soldiers had been on the ground since March before the recent departures.

That number is just a fraction of the 20,000 Americans who initially comprised the mission in December 1995. Bell, a brigadier general and assistant commander for the 1st Infantry Division at the time, was on hand as soldiers of the 1st Armored Division bridged the storm-strengthened Sava River to allow hundreds of vehicles to cross into the country.

"It was a sporting event for any army," he said, marveling on the conditions that were overcome by the 1st AD, other Army units and

the Air Force in getting troops and supplies into the country. He said it took about 400 trains, 1,400 aircraft sorties, 440 buses and 250 convoys to get the initial equipment and materiel into Bosnia.

Since then, countless tons have been shipped into the country as rotation after rotation of active-duty, then Reserve forces, served in Bosnia. Wright, the outgoing task force commander, estimated that 100,000 Americans have served here. More than a few of those served more than once.

The task force was first led by the Germany-based 1st AD. The 1st ID followed for a year, then gave way to the 1st AD again. After stints by the 1st Cavalry Di-

vision and 10th Mountain Division, the mission largely was taken over by the Army Reserve and National Guard. Most of their rotations were for six months.

Five former task force commanders were on hand for the ceremony, along with former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, who was the top enlisted soldier in Bosnia during the initial mission.

"I think there's nostalgia," Bell said of the mission ending. "There's no sad feelings."

Bell said he believes the Army has made a difference in Bosnia and those who have served in the country should be proud. "Soldiers of Task Force Eagle, past and present, this is your legacy."

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CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army armored vehicles roll across the Sava River into Bosnia-Herzegovina from Zupanja, Croatia, in December 1995 to mark the start of the presence of U.S. peacekeepers in the country following its 3½-year war.





STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Orville Whitlock, 30, of Lynchburg, Va., explains how a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion Humvee during a patrol May 5. Whitlock and four other soldiers received shrapnel wounds — which he said "feels like someone sliced open your back and poured in hot chicken grease" — but all survived.

# On edge but thankful

## Troops in Iraq wary of close calls yet grateful to be alive

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

### FORWARD OPERATING BASE

Six hundred thirty times since the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment arrived in Iraq last March, they have been attacked by the enemy.

Sometimes a roadside bomb blows up next to a truck. A mortar explodes in the middle of the base. Insurgents pop out from hidden positions and open fire with AK-47 rifles on a whole convoy. In Iraq, the front lines are nowhere, and they are everywhere.

At a base like FOB MacKenzie, home of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, it is hard to find an infantryman, engineer, supply sergeant, pilot or clerk who hasn't had a close brush with death. Most have had several.

"They've lived through things they'll never share with anyone except other combat veterans and fought fear beyond anything most civilians will ever feel. The experience has changed some of them in ways they don't yet realize."

"These guys are battle-hardened. There isn't anybody who hasn't been under attack," said Maj. Kirk Dorr, 38, of Marlboro, Mass., the squadron's operations officer. "The logisticians and convoy supporters see just as much contact as our line troops."

Seven 1-4 Cavalry troops and one civilian from MacKenzie have

died in the nine months since the unit took over the former Iraqi airfield 20 miles east of Samarra. More than 50 others have been wounded.

Hundreds of 1-4 Cavalry soldiers have dodged death by a whisker, aided by luck, pluck or divine providence. Almost everyone here can name three or four or more occasions he should have died, but didn't.

"I can't even count them," said Spc. Joshua Burgess, 25, of Arlington, Texas, a member of Troop B. He has lived through two bomb attacks on his convoy the same day and countless pot shots he describes as "nothing really significant."

enemy.

"The first 10 or 15 seconds, everything is chaos," said Capt. John Trylich, 30, the Troop B commander. "The explosion, the dust and dirt ... The radios start screaming, everyone is yelling."

But then the training really does kick in. Soldiers remember what they're supposed to do: take a firing position, man a radio, organize troops or treat casualties. Leaders say panic is surprisingly rare.

"Even though you want to duck down, you can't," said Spc. Robert Laurell, 21, of Troy, Mo., a gunner for the 9th Engineers. "Your battle buddies are relying on you to stay up there and keep firing."

Heading out on the next patrol isn't always easy. But it is part of the job. Every soldier must find a way to get past the fear.

"Everybody deals with it differently," said Sgt. Jason Benton, 25, of the 9th Engineers. "I just try not to think about it, act like it's the first time I'm going out again."

Pfc. Joshua Schmidt, 21, said he didn't want to leave the base in an armorless Humvee after

surviving a mine strike in an armored one last April. Bartual said he struggled to get back in his vehicle and go on patrols again after the near-miss at the cemetery.

"I was a nervous wreck after finishing that mission," Bartual said. "I used to get blisters from gripping the steering wheel so tight."

SEE CLOSE ON PAGE 5

# Troops recount how they narrowly escaped death

## Wrong place becomes right

Not long ago, Capt. John Trylich, 30, the lanky, redheaded commander of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment's Troop B "Bulldogs," issued a stern but-cheering to one of his Bradley fighting vehicle crews for parking on the main road of Forward Operating Base MacKenzie, Iraq,

instead of 40 yards away in a marshaling yard, the proper spot to line up for the afternoon convoy.

Trylich thought about moving the Bradley and several Humvees to the yard but decided not to waste the time. Within five minutes, the commander and his troops heard the crack and the scream of an incoming rocket, followed by a deafening boom that sent everyone running for the safety of their armored vehicles.

"It was very quick, very loud and very close," Trylich said. "We were scattering like roaches, running for cover."

When the dust settled, Trylich and his men saw that the 107 mm rocket had landed just 40 meters away — precisely where the convoy should have lined up.

"It was literally a stone's throw from where we were standing," he said, shaking his head. "An angel was on our side that day."

## A landing and then a getaway

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rob Carpenter, 37, of the squadron's Troop E, had been flying his OH-58 Kiowa Warrior in the early April uprising called the "battle of Baquba" northeast of Baghdad.

Flying in support of the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, Carpenter and his co-pilot saw insurgents firing rocket-propelled grenades toward them. Suddenly one hit their main rotor, knocking off four feet of one blade.

"We could feel the concussion," Carpenter said. "It was very violent. I wasn't thinking about anything else because I had about seven seconds before I hit the ground."

In a crowded city neighborhood, they happened to come down — hard but safely — in the only open field around: a neighborhood cesspool. They could hear angry mobs and small-arms fire in the distance.

"We knew we needed to get away," Carpenter said. "I didn't want to leave the helicopter, but I didn't want to get strung up on a bridge, either."

Carpenter and the co-pilot ran through the muck and commandeered a civilian car, but they didn't know where to go. Then the "cavalry" rode to the rescue. Along came a convoy of troops from the 1st Squadron, 6th Field Artillery.

"I saw Humvees screaming around the corner," Carpenter recalled. "I said 'God bless America!'"

## No April fool

Capt. Steven Janko, a military lawyer assigned to the 1-4 Cav, keeps a reminder of his closest call sitting on his desk.

On April 1, as he walked back to his office from the command bunker at MacKenzie about 7 p.m., a shower of rockets rained down on the base.

"We just started running into the bunker. Four or five rockets had come down already," said Janko, 32, of Honolulu.

He felt a spray of gravel hit his helmet. He looked behind him and saw a 107 mm rocket nose down in the parking lot, about 10 feet from where he stood. An 8-foot plume of smoke spewed from its tail — but the rocket didn't explode.

Janko ran into the office he shares with the squadron's chaplain, Capt. Gary Fisher, and his

assistant, Staff Sgt. Ed Baptiste.

"I said 'Guess what, there's a rocket outside!'" Janko said, "but nobody would believe me because it was April Fools' Day."



Capt. John Trylich



Spc. Jose Bartual



Spc. Robert Laurell

For thousands of soldiers in the war zone, life itself is something to be grateful for this Thanksgiving.

"I'm thankful for having all my fingers and toes," said Spc. Jose Bartual, 26, of New York City.

By now these men hardly mind small-arms fire, which at least gives them a chance to fight back. What they hate most are the roadside-bomb explosions. They come out of nowhere, from an invisible



Capt. Steve Janko





Sgt. Anthony Troche, left, and Pfc. Jihoon Ham

## No safety in ambulance

It's a good day when you hit a bomb and your only casualty is a bottle of iced tea.

Pfc. Jihoon Ham and Sgt. Anthony Troche, medics with the 557th Medical Company, learned as much in September, when a roadside bomb hit their ambulance as they conveyed from Mosul to Tikrit.

The vehicle in front of them spotted the bomb, but Ham and Troche's ambulance had rolled just past it when the unseen insurgent detonated it.

"I was kind of surprised," said Ham, 24, of Flushing, N.Y., who was driving. "It was a pretty loud boom."

The explosion flattened both tires and spun the ambulance three-quarters of the way around. A cascade of shrapnel pierced the patient compartment in the rear, but no one was there.

One jagged piece of metal penetrated the cab four inches from Troche's head. Another shattered a container of iced tea between them in the front seat.

"The whole vehicle was smelling like peach iced tea," said Troche, 28, of Hometown, Puerto Rico.

The stunned medics looked at each and realized neither had been hurt.

"I said, 'Whoa, that was close!'" Troche recalled. "After that, we could say we survived that one. We're good to go."

## Dangerous roads

Sometimes close calls come in bunches.

That's a lesson Spc. Joshua Burgess, 25, of Arlington, Texas, learned Aug. 1 on Main Supply Route Grape, a highway east of Samarra that was frequently attacked during the summer when insurgents controlled the city.

The patrol of three Humvees from Company B of the 1-4 Cav left that morning to check the route for roadside bombs: one of the most dangerous jobs on one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq.

Then his patrol found one.

A powerful "daisy chain" bomb made of three 155 mm artillery rounds tied together exploded underneath one of the other Humvees about 11 a.m. One soldier died instantly, and another lay mortally wounded, his legs blown off by the force of the blast.

"Your world just goes to [expletive] when that happens," Burgess said.

Burgess, in the next Humvee, blacked out briefly and suffered a concussion.

But the patrol regrouped. A call went out for a medical evacuation helicopter for two injured soldiers, and to the "Bulldawg" troop headquarters for help.

Capt. John Trylich led a relief convoy that included three M1 Abrams tanks. They recovered the bombed-out vehicle, packed up, and rolled back toward their camp, FOB MacKenzie.

Trylich decided to try a trick: an exempt first class from an engineer platoon had suggested to him that morning. He ordered the almost indestructible tanks to drive along the edges of the road, where insurgents typically bury the bombs. The sergeant said a tank would bury a bomb enough to limit the death and destruction even if it did blow.

The trick worked. An even more powerful bomb, this one with four 155 mm shells, exploded under a Humvee 10 minutes after they rolled out. The driver and a passenger suffered only minor injuries.

"The tanks saved those guys," Trylich said later. "Even though it was a tragic situation, it was a lucky day."

— Steve Liewer

# Close: Safety within inches

## CLOSE, FROM PAGE 4

Occasionally someone finds excuses to dodge a mission. But soldiers know their buddies depend on them. It doesn't happen often.

"If you don't go, someone else has to," said Spc. Steve Wetmore, 20, of Union City, Pa., and the 9th Engineers.

Sgt. Orville Whitlock, a squad leader with the 9th Engineers' sappers,

survived an RPG strike on his Humvee May 5. The detonating charge whizzed just inches

from the heads of the two men in the right-side seats, exploding against the front windshield in a shower of safety glass. All five occupants suffered shrapnel wounds.

Still he rides on patrols — sometimes in the same Humvee, which still is scarred with a large hole where the grenade hit.

"Everybody's scared. But you can't be too scared to function," Whitlock said. "I use the fear and the worrying about coming back as fuel to get through the mission."

"You have to keep your head in the game," Benton said. "You can't fear death."

Rarely do soldiers discuss these close calls with anyone back home. They don't want to worry wives, kids, husbands or parents.

"I don't tell 'em anything — just everything's good, the weather's getting better," said Benton, who has a wife, Scharla-mange, and two children back home in Schweinfurt, Germany.

"They already worry enough about me."

"You've got to candy-coat it," said Spc. Shane Stupavsky, 20, of Quincy, Ill., who serves in Trylich's troop.

Even among themselves, soldiers say, they don't often talk much about combat once it's over. But there is an unspoken bond among troops who have been together in an especially hairy mission.

"Sometimes just a glance, a pause in a discussion, is worth a thousand words," Trylich said.

With the 1st Infantry Division's deployment now almost three-quarters complete, troops are thinking more and more about getting home safely and need to stay focused on the mission at hand, soldiers said.

Nearly 100 of the 22,000 soldiers from the 1st ID-led Task Force Danger — which also includes brigades from the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division and the North Carolina National Guard, plus many smaller Guard and Reserve detachments — have been killed.

Ironically, there is a grim joy to war. Soldiers report a fierce adrenaline rush from combat, and they get to use the skills they've trained at for years. There's a certain pride in surviving a tough scrape.

"Any soldier that's gone into combat has to be satisfied with what he's done," said Capt. Gary Fisher, the 39-year-old 1-4 Cavalry chaplain from Alexandria, La. "It's life-defining. It's very fulfilling. It's very achieving."

mission complete."

He has twice been on convoys in which soldiers died from enemy attacks. He vividly remembers the pavement burning his knees, the sweat pouring from his head, as he prayed in the ear of an injured sergeant.

"I am most alive when I experience moments of combat," said Fisher. "It has a way of cutting away everything that's unnecessary for life."

Some soldiers say they've already sensed the jarring difference between life at home and life in a combat zone.

"When I went home on [rest and recuperation], people were just griping and bitching about little things," Schmidt said. "They're not thinking about getting killed every day."

Dorr believes troops who have lived close to death have been changed in ways that they won't fully appreciate until long after they get home.

"There are certainly some people here who have seen some awful things," he said. "You're either going to leave Iraq a better person or a worse person. But you're going to change."

"I think they understand," Fisher said, "that this is the defining moment in their lives."



Spc. Shaun Stupavsky



**"I don't tell [the family] anything — just 'everything's good, the weather's getting better.' They already worry enough about me."**

Sgt. Jason Benton



**"When I went home on [rest and recuperation], people were just griping and bitching about little things. They're not thinking about getting killed every day."**

Pfc. Joshua Burgess



Spc. Steve Wetmore

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

American Indians and Pilgrims, actually Old Argonne Elementary School third-graders and parents, dish up their food as they celebrate Thanksgiving Wednesday at the Hanau, Germany, school.

# Pilgrims, parents join for Thanksgiving meal

## Hanau school's students show off knowledge of Turkey Day's origins

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — Vanessa Hranilovic bought her Pilgrim costume on the Internet, while the black hat atop Joshua Harlan's head was of the low-tech variety.

Made of construction paper, the headress came together "very fantastically this morning, at 7 o'clock," Joshua's mom, Kathy Harlan, confessed.

On the day before Thanksgiving, third-graders at Argonne Elementary School sat down with their parents and classmates for a feast. The menu included turkey, stuffing, potatoes, assorted vegetables, breads and dessert.

"They have some pretty good chow here," Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bruce Millasp said as he polished off his meal.

The feast marked the culmination of an extended section on the earliest European settlers — the people of the Mayflower — and the many challenges they faced, such as disease or relations with Native Americans.

"Things weren't easy," said teacher Barbara Luenser, whose class includes Vanessa, Joshua and Mekayla Millasp.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on life's blessings. For 1st Armored Division families, there is much to be thankful for this year,

**More Thanksgiving stories on Page 14**

given that a fair number of them spent last Thanksgiving in Iraq.

Bruce Millasp was injured 13 months ago by an improvised explosive device. He said he's happy just to be alive, and to share this classroom experience with daughter Mekayla, whom he called his "little sweetheart."

Down the hallway, in Lydia Youngman's classroom, other soldiers were expressing similar sentiments. Some wore paper Indian headbands, with an accompanying feather. It was easy to tell that there was no other place they would rather be.

Staff Sgt. Doug Dancy, 320th Engineer Company, spent Thanksgiving away from his family in 2001 and 2002. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bill Staniewicz missed the last two.

Staniewicz, a Black Hawk helicopter pilot, said he's thankful "just to hang around and feast" with his family.

Joining him at this feast was his wife, Dana, and son, Danny. The 9-year-old regaled those around the miniature table with pilgrim tidbits he learned in school. They included: the buckle on the hat is a myth; kids hunted when they



Third-grader Joshua Harlan dishes up some turkey Wednesday, as his classmates and parents celebrate Thanksgiving at the Hanau, Germany, school. His mom, Kathy, waits her turn behind him.

were 6; the water supply on the Mayflower became so foul kids had to drink beer; and the Mayflower was a cargo vessel, not a passenger ship.

The kids seemed to genuinely like the pilgrim lesson.

"I'm thankful for having a wonderful teacher like Ms. Youngman," said 8-year-old Jordan Dancy.

Next door, teacher Martha Gregg smiled as she took in the scene.

"It's nice to have the families together," she said.

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# USAFE staging Xbox challenge

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

They've tossed footballs, raced cars and carried out dangerous missions by using about as much firepower as there is on base.

All from the relative comfort of chairs inside the community center.

Airmen at eight U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases will be at it again Dec. 4 when they compete in the USAFE Xbox Challenge.

"When it's all said and done, we're probably going to have about 200 participants," said Michael Birriel, business program specialist with USAFE Services in Sembach, Germany.

That's counting the number of players at all the individual bases. In the finals, there will be 16 two-person teams. In order to get there, the teams will have to defeat the rest of the competition on base.

The challenge this time involves "Halo 2." It'll be the fifth time that competitors have battled one another simultaneously across the command.

Other competitions have involved games such as "Project Gotham," "Madden NFL 2004" and "Mecha Assault."

Birriel said the competition originated at Spangdahlem, Germany, and has quickly spread to other bases with help from Microsoft and a USAFE initiative, Project Powerplant. The result is a game center on each base targeting single, young airmen.

Spangdahlem, with 16 Xbox units, has the most, Birriel said. Lajes Field, Azores, with three, is the smallest.

Because most computer games these days feature multiplayer versions, it was just a matter of working out the differences between phone systems in five countries to get everyone connected. One computer acts as a host and the rest of the competitors join as guests.

Everyone's involved in the same game at the same time and the team with the most points wins.

A team from RAF Mildenhall, England, won the first quarterly contest, followed by a team from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Aviano Air Base, Italy, has won the last two events.

Airman 1st Class Karl Mullner of the 31st Communications Squadron has been on the last two winning teams. He said since "Halo 2" recently came out, he's not sure about what kind of competition he'll be facing from other USAFE competitors. Mullner has been playing the game some, but doesn't own an Xbox himself.

"Everyone is always extra mad when they find out I don't even own one," he said.

This will be the first time RAF Croughton, England, is involved. Spangdahlem, Ramstein, Lajes, Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath in England and Aviano complete the field. Birriel said that's about as big as it will get in USAFE, though RAF Fairford, England, may join up as well.

He said the Air Force would love to have competitors from the Army and Navy in Europe as well, though he's not sure if any of those communities have similar setups.

Air Force bases in the Pacific theater and in the States are starting similar projects, Birriel said, so there might be some sort of worldwide competition eventually.

"It's something that's growing slowly, but by next year, there could be people playing everywhere," he said.

Of course, that's already happening on a less organized basis as gamers get together and play via the Internet. Birriel said it's possible that the USAFE competition may eventually be held monthly. Some bases are already holding contests almost every week.

E-mail Kent Harris at: [harris@mil.eastripes.osd.mil](mailto:harris@mil.eastripes.osd.mil)

## Air Force reactivating Washington district

ARLINGTON, Va. — The busy tempo caused by the war on terror and a need to better coordinate actions taken by the different services has prompted the Air Force to decide to reactivate the Air Force District of Washington, service officials said Tuesday.

The command, which existed from 1985 to 1994 before being disbanded, will be located back at its previous headquarters, Bolling Air Force Base, officials said. The command will start up on Jan. 1, although its permanent structure has yet to be completely determined, the officials said.

"This command structure will give the Air Force a 'single voice' for working cross-service issues" throughout the National Capitol Region, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said in a prepared statement about the new unit. The command will also "improve our support level to the newly established Joint Forces Headquarters," Jumper said.

The revived Air Force District of Washington will be commanded by a general officer and include the Air Force's 11th Wing. The command also will have other forces assigned to it, including units needed to support the Pentagon's new Joint Forces Headquarters, National Capitol Region, officials said.

## DOD analyst arrested in sex sting

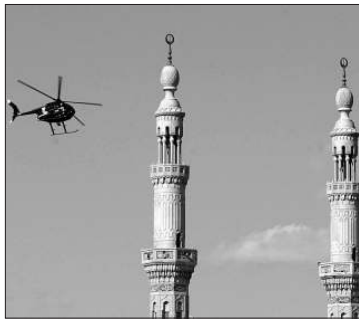
SAN ANTONIO — A Pentagon analyst was arrested after allegedly flying to San Antonio to have sex with a 14-year-old girl, police said. Investigators said John Miner, 33, was caught in the act Sunday by a police detective masquerading as the girl online. He was arrested Tuesday in a parking lot and remained in jail on a \$100,000 bond Wednesday on charges of soliciting sex with a minor.

Police said Miner corresponded with the undercover detective by e-mail, chat rooms, and a Web cam on his computer.

Police spokesman Sgt. Gabe Trevino said the department has notified the FBI because of Miner's high security clearance.

From staff and wire reports

# Purported al-Zarqawi tape scolds clerics



A private security helicopter flies over Ibn Taimiyya Mosque in Baghdad on Wednesday, after a car bomb exploded nearby. An audiotape purportedly made by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi lashed out against U.S. actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying they have "let us down in the darkest circumstances."

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An audiotape purportedly made by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi lashed out Wednesday at Muslim scholars for not speaking out against U.S. actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying they have "let us down in the darkest circumstances."

It was unclear whether the tape posted Wednesday on the Internet was intended as a direct threat against Iraq's Sunni religious establishment, who have come under attack recently with the slaying this week of two Sunni clerics by gunmen.

"You have let us down in the darkest circumstances and handed us over to the enemy. ... You have quit supporting the mujahideen," said the voice on the tape, purported to be al-Zarqawi's. "Hundreds of thousands of the nation's sons are being slaughtered at the hands of the infidels because of your silence."

On the tape, which could not be authenticated, al-Zarqawi ad-

ressed his comments to the "ulama" — senior Islamic clerics and scholars. The tape was not posted by al-Zarqawi's designated media coordinator, Abu Maysara al-Zarqawi, and it was unclear whether the material on it was new.

Al-Zarqawi, who leads the terrorist group known as al-Qaida in Iraq, is believed to have escaped from his headquarters in the insurgent-held stronghold of Fallujah during the massive U.S.-led assault earlier this month.

"You made peace with the tyranny and handed over the countries and the people to the Jews and Crusaders ... when you resort to silence on their crimes ... and when you prevented youth from heading to the battlefields in order to defend the religion," he said.

"Instead of implementing God's orders, you chose your safety and preferred your money and sons. You left the mujahideen facing the strongest power in the world," he said. "And, you hearts shaken by the scenes of your brothers being surrounded and hurt by your enemy?"

This week, two Sunni clerics were assassinated by gunmen. Both clerics — one slain in the northern city of Mosul, the other in the town of Mugdadiyah just north of Baghdad — were members of an influential Sunni group that openly called for a boycott of Jan. 30 national elections because of the U.S. offensive against Fallujah.

It was unclear whether the two attacks were related, and there has been no claim of responsibility.

The audio message appeared as U.S. and Iraqi security forces continued their search for al-Zarqawi after reports that he was in the region north of Baghdad. The U.S. has placed a \$25 million bounty on his head.

His group is believed responsible for dozens of deadly bombings and gruesome beheadings of foreign hostages.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have been dealing with a wave of violence across Iraq, sparked by the assault on Fallujah and continuing even after the military says the former insurgent stronghold largely has been taken.

Five more bodies were found Wednesday in Mosul, the U.S. military said, bringing the total to 20 found in the city the past week.

Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, with Task Force Olympia, said it was not yet confirmed whether the five men whose bodies were found belonged to Iraqi security forces.

Before the latest grisly discovery, U.S. troops had found 10 bodies of Iraqi soldiers — nine of them shot execution-style. Five other bodies, including four decapitated ones, still have not been identified.

On Wednesday, Nineveh province's deputy governor said his convoy came under gunfire in Mosul, killing one of his bodyguards and injuring two others. An Interior Ministry special forces member in the area was also

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,229 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 957 died as a result of hostile action. The Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Tuesday at 10 a.m.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,091 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 848 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 9,326 U.S. servicemen have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Blain M. Ebert, 22, Washitua, Wash., killed Monday in hostile fire in Baghdad; assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Marine Col. Michael R. Cohen, 23, Jacobus, Pa.; killed Monday in hostile action in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

killed, he said.

Deputy Gov. Khasro Gauran said he was on his way home when his convoy was attacked. He said authorities were investigating the possibility that the convoy was mistakenly fired upon by the special Interior Ministry force in the area.

In Mahmudiya, gunmen ambushed a taxi carrying an Iraqi National Guard soldier to his military base after dawn Wednesday, said Dr. Dawood al-Taie of Mahmudiya Hospital. There was no information on his condition.

Mahmudiya, about 25 miles south of Baghdad, is an area known as the "triangle of death," a region where rebels frequently attack U.S. and allied forces.

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# 2 GIs killed, 1 hurt in Afghanistan blast

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two U.S. soldiers died and another was injured when a bomb ripped through their patrol in southern Afghanistan Wednesday, a fresh reminder of the country's insecurity after a freshly resolved hostage drama.

The troops were attacked near Deh Rawood, a town 250 miles southwest of Kabul, in Uruzgan province, where the military has clashed repeatedly with Taliban militants.

"We're sorry to say that two U.S. soldiers were killed and one U.S. soldier was injured," Maj. Mark McCann said. The wounded soldier was in stable condition at a nearby U.S. base.

The military withheld the victims' names until their families could be informed, and gave no further details.

A total of 110 soldiers have died since the United States attacked Afghanistan's former ruling Taliban and their al-Qaida allies in late 2001, according to U.S. government figures.

The toll exacted by Taliban and al-Qaida holdouts defying a U.S. force

currently numbering about 18,000 pales next to the more than 1,200 Americans killed in Iraq.

But there is concern Afghan militants are learning from their Iraqi counterparts, from the already widespread use of roadside bombs to the Oct. 28 kidnapping of three foreign election workers which sent shudders through Kabul's expatriate community.

## Rumsfeld says Iraqi troops show signs of improvement

BY ROBERT BURNS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S.-trained Iraqi troops, faulted for ineffective fighting in previous clashes with insurgents, made a "generally pretty good" showing in the Fallujah offensive, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

Increasing the number and improving the ability of Iraqi security forces — soldiers, police and border guards — are essential to an American strategy for withdrawing from Iraq.

Rumsfeld said he was briefed earlier in the day by Gen. George Casey, the top American commander in Iraq, and Casey's boss, Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command, on the Iraqis' performance.

"The report on the units of Iraqi forces that have been involved in Fallujah and elsewhere during this period has been generally pretty good and that they've performed well," Rumsfeld said.

There were "some instances where it was not perfect," he said, but Iraqi troops are gaining confidence in the face of an insurgency Rumsfeld called "the murderous enemies of progress."

Eight Iraqi troops were killed in Fallujah fighting, compared with at least 54 Americans, and about 10 times more Americans were wounded than Iraqi troops. That reflects the more direct role U.S. troops played in confronting the insurgents. The Iraqi forces served mostly in a support role.

At a Pentagon news conference, Rumsfeld said it was too early to know how soon the Iraqi forces will be ready to take full responsibility for security, allowing the 138,000 U.S. troops to go home.



Defense Secretary  
Donald Rumsfeld

### Iraqi baby going home

DAYTON, Ohio — A 14-month-old Iraqi girl who received free treatment in the United States for a possibly fatal growth in her neck began the trip home, about six months after her parents brought her to a U.S. military base in her homeland.

Fatemah Hassan and her mother took off Tuesday from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on a cargo plane. Maj. Ted Theoplis, spokesman for the 44th Air Force, said the child would be flown to Ramstein Air Base in Germany before returning to Iraq.

Fatemah was diagnosed with a large hemangioma, a dense growth of blood vessels that grows abnormally large.

### Thanksgiving delivery

HARTLAND, Mich. — Yvette Boulton wants her son to get a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal before he's deployed to Iraq so she's trucking the feast 761 miles to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Boulton will be on the road 13 hours so she can feed her son, Army Cpl. Jordan Keilmann, 22, and 14 of his friends. The soldiers must remain within an hour of base so they could be called to Iraq. Keilmann fought in Iraq from September to February.

"I said 'I'll cook, and you boys sit around and watch the football game. Just pretend you're at home,'" said Boulton, 47, who is an assistant for a law firm.

The Fort Bragg holiday dinner was conceived a few weeks ago when Boulton called her son to tell him she would be bringing him dinner. She suggested he "invite a few friends."

### Scholar sentenced

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A Providence resident and Middle East scholar has been sentenced to six months of home confinement for trying to smuggle 4,000-year-old Iraqi artifacts into the United States.

Joseph Braude pleaded guilty in August to attempting to sneak carved stone marking seals belonging to the Iraqi National Museum into the U.S. after purchasing them on the black market in Iraq last year. The 30-year-old Braude was sentenced Monday in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn. He also received two years' probation and must pay \$2,000.

From The Associated Press



THE (TACOMA, WASH.) NEWS TRIBUNE/AP

Scott Finnick, 7, checks out the Bronze Star worn by his mother, Sgt. Rebecca L. Finnick, after it was awarded Monday at a welcome home ceremony at Fort Lewis, Wash. Finnick is a member of the 2nd Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, which returned home after spending a year deployed in Iraq.

## First Stryker Brigade sent to Iraq honored

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL  
The Associated Press

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Clad in desert camouflage and standing at attention, members of the first Stryker Brigade sent to Iraq were honored Monday at a homecoming ceremony after a yearlong deployment.

Hundreds of friends and family sat in the bleachers at Watkins Field snapping photos and talking excitedly. Though brigade members have slowly been trickling home since October, Monday's ceremony was the first to honor the entire unit.

The hour-long ceremony included comments from Col. Michael Rounds, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. He read the names of the 20 Stryker Brigade soldiers killed in Iraq.

"They have earned a special place in the history of the brigade. We will never forget them," he said.

The infantry brigade is anchored by the Stryker, the Army's newest medium-weight combat vehicle. The eight-wheeled Stryker is widely viewed as a visible symbol of efforts to transform the Army into a faster, more agile fighting force.

The brigade was stationed in Mosul,

Balad, Samarra and Duluth.

It conducted raids, reconnaissance and established security operations incorporating Iraqi security forces.

The post's commander, Lt. Gen. James Dubik, presented awards of valor to three soldiers, including Sgt. Joshua Miller, who received a Silver Star for helping free a commander "who became caught in debris when the squad was attacked in Mosul. Miller also is credited with single-handedly repelling a 20-man assault and killing four insurgents."

At a round-table discussion following the homecoming, Rounds and other senior leaders and soldiers echoed sentiments of national commanders that the Strykers were a key to keeping the brigade's casualties to a minimum.

"It would be significantly higher if not for the equipment," said Lt. Col. Jay Flowers, commander of 3rd Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment.

Before coming home, members of the 3rd Brigade helped train their replacements, the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, a second Stryker unit from Fort Lewis, just south of Tacoma.

The 1st Brigade began deploying in October for a one-year mission. It includes more than 4,000 soldiers and 300 Strykers.

*"They have earned a special place in the history of the brigade. We will never forget them."*

**Col. Michael Rounds**  
Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division

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## IN THE STATES

## Bush orders massive additions to CIA

BY GREG MILLER  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — President Bush has ordered what may be a major expansion of the CIA, calling for the beleaguered agency to add thousands of new analysts and spies as part of an ongoing build-up in the war on terrorism, according to a White House memorandum released Tuesday.

But the directive set no timetable for the changes and offered no indication that the White House intends to ask Congress for the massive funding increase such a plan likely would require.

The plan was outlined in a memorandum delivered to CIA Director Porter J. Goss last week. In it, Bush instructed the intelligence chief to increase the number of analysts and spies at the CIA by 50 percent. The figure summed current and former intelligence officials, several of whom said the CIA has not charted such an aggressive course of growth since its inception in the aftermath of World War II.

## Agency told in memorandum to increase number of analysts, spies by 50 percent

The CIA is thought to have an annual budget of about \$5 billion, and to employ more than 17,000 people, although actual figures are classified. Sources said the agency's clandestine service employs several thousand people, and that its analytic branch — known as the directorate of intelligence — is even larger.

The Bush memorandum says the increases are to take place "as soon as feasible," and would be "subject to the availability of appropriations." Bush gave the agency 90 days to develop a "detailed budget and implementation plan."

Because of the caveats contained in the document and the low-key, mysterious manner in which it was released by the White House, the memorandum was greet-

ed with a mixture of enthusiasm and skepticism in the intelligence community.

"I wouldn't overreach" in attaching significance to the document, said a U.S. intelligence official. "The way it's being looked at is a codification of some of the things the agency has been doing before. It builds on some of those measures and adds to them."

The official acknowledged that the 50 percent targets are significantly higher than anything previously articulated by the administration, but said the issue of timing was not addressed.

"The question becomes 'When?' and there doesn't seem to be any time frame," the official said.

The White House provided no additional details on the memorandum, one of several

issued by Bush last week and released Tuesday as part of a series of measures aimed on recommendations from the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks.

A White House official said the directives represent an effort by Bush to "take additional steps under his own authority beyond recommendations made by the 9/11 commission. These are partial steps."

A senior administration official cautioned against interpreting the memo as a shift in policy or a preview of new budget requests. It is more of a "refocusing," the official said. "This is the president's attempt to be responsive to the 9/11 commission recommendations, to put further specificity to what he agreed to in August," the official said.

While the expansion could require new money, the senior administration official said some of the growth could be covered with existing money. It's fair for us to say that since 9/11, and during the president's first administration, these budgets have grown significantly," the official said.

## Stories differ in Wis. hunter shooting case

### Victim, suspect each say other party fired first shot

BY ROBERT IMRIE  
The Associated Press

HAYWARD, Wis. — The man suspected of shooting six hunters to death and a survivor agree that the tragedy began with a confrontation on private land. But they sharply differ on what happened next.

Survivor Lauren Hesebeck told investigators Chai Vang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., turned around after a verbal exchange and started shooting his rifle from 40 yards away.

But Vang told Sawyer County investigators he began firing only after one of Hesebeck's hunting buddies, Terry Willers, shot at him with a rifle from about 100 feet away and missed.

Vang, a Hmong immigrant from Laos, also claimed the hunters taunted him with racial slurs and warned him he would be reported to law enforcement for being on private land, according to a document filed Tuesday.

Hesebeck's version, contained in the same statement, makes no mention of that type of language or verbal hostility, other than saying Vang used profanity at one point.

Hesebeck, who was released from a hospital Tuesday after treatment for a shoulder wound, told investigators Willers shot at Vang after Vang fired first but missed.

Both accounts agreed that Vang shot the others as more people from the deer camp arrived at the scene, summoned by Hesebeck using a walkie-talkie to call for help.

Vang said he continued firing as the group scattered, and at one point chased one of the hunters and shot him in the back, only to find the man had no gun, the document states.

Authorities have said there was only one gun among the victims.

According to investigators, it's believed Vang fired at least 20 shots.



THE STAR TRIBUNE/AP

**Lauren Hesebeck stands on a porch at his home in Rice Lake, Wis., after being released from the hospital Tuesday. Hesebeck was one of two hunters wounded and six killed following a confrontation with another hunter trespassing on private land.**

No one answered the door at the Hesebeck home in rural Rice Lake on Tuesday. Members of the family and another victim's family planned to talk with reporters Wednesday.

Sunday's shootings occurred after Vang got lost while hunting, climbed into a tree stand on private property and then got into the confrontation with Willers and others hunting with him.

The victims were part of a group of about 15 people who made their annual opening-weekend trip to the 400-acre property co-owned by Robert Croteau and Willers.

Killed were Croteau, 42; his son, Joey Croteau, 20; Al Laski, 43; Mark Roidt, 28; Jessica Willers, 27; and Denny Drew, 55, all from the Rice Lake area. Terry Willers, Jessica's father, remained hospitalized Wednesday in good condition.

Vang was arrested about four hours after the shootings as he emerged from the woods with his empty semiautomatic rifle. Five people died in the woods; a sixth died Monday in a hospital. Two others were wounded.

Circuit Judge Norman Yackel ordered Vang jailed Tuesday on \$2.5 million bail. He ruled that evidence submitted to him was sufficient to hold Vang on suspicion of murder and attempted murder, pending the filing of formal charges.

## Viacom reaches deal with FCC to end probe

BY EMILY FREDRICK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Viacom will pay a record \$3.5 million to settle dozens of federal investigations into alleged indecency on TV and the radio, and introduce delays in more live programming to help catch troublesome material before it gets on the air.

The settlement, announced Tuesday, closes investigations dating back to 2001. One involved shock jock Howard Stern, and two focused on Opie and Anthony, who lost their Viacom-owned New York radio show after it featured a couple purporting to have sex inside St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Greg "Opie" Hughes and Anthony Cumia went silent after the 2002 show until October, when they joined with XM Satellite Radio, where Federal Communications Commission regulations don't apply.

Stern is joining the Sirius satellite network in January 2006, when his contract with Viacom-owned Infinity Broadcasting expires.

Viacom, which also owns CBS

and MTV, agreed to implement a companywide compliance plan aimed at preventing future violations of federal indecency statutes. The plan includes installation of audio delay equipment at radio stations that broadcast live programming and training employees about indecency laws.

"This consent decree allows us to move forward and to focus our efforts in this area by serving our viewers and listeners with techniques to safeguard live broadcasts," Viacom said in a statement.

Viacom said the public, not the government, should decide what it is exposed to on the air.

But agreeing to the settlement makes that impossible, says John Dunbar, a project manager at the Center for Public Integrity, a non-partisan government watchdog group. Becoming more acquiescent with FCC oversight may make good business sense, Dunbar said, but that means potentially losing freedom of speech.

"Regardless of what the content of the speech was, I'm not sure that it's such a great thing for there not to be a debate on it," Dunbar said.

## Tests find no mad cow disease

WASHINGTON — A five-day mad cow disease scare that briefly rattled the cattle markets and raised concerns among some beef eaters has been put to rest after sophisticated chemical tests on a suspected animal showed no sign of the brain-wasting ailment.

But the "false positive" in the initial screening again raised questions about the Agriculture Department's testing procedures.

Some critics argued that the department had unnecessarily alarmed the public and beef markets by disclosing the inconclusive preliminary results last week.

## Influenza health scientist dies at 100

WASHINGTON — Ancel Keys, a University of Minnesota public health scientist who invented the K ration consumed by millions of soldiers in World War II, discovered that saturated fat was a major cause of heart disease and championed the benefits of the Mediterranean diet, died Nov. 20 at his home in Minneapolis. He was 100.

No cause of death was reported. He was still at work earlier this year, analyzing data from his landmark epidemiological study, begun in 1958, of 12,000 middle-aged men in Italy, the Greek Islands, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Finland, Japan and the United States.

From wire services



# Air travelers still pack prohibited items

## Airport security tips

The Associated Press

Tips from the U.S. government for passengers heading to the airport:

■ Guns and ammunition cannot be carried into an airplane cabin. Unloaded firearms can be checked if they are placed in a locked, hard-sided container and declared to the airline. Ammunition can be checked if it's in suitable packaging, such as the manufacturer's package.

■ Shoes do not need to be removed, but doing so may save time.

■ Don't make any jokes suggesting a threat to security — screeners take them seriously.

■ All passengers must remove outer coats and jackets — including suits, sport coats, athletic warm-up jackets and blazers — for X-ray before walking through the metal detectors.

■ Travel with unwrapped presents, because if they set off an alarm they'll have to be unwrapped anyway.

■ Put undeveloped film in carry-on baggage; the machines used to screen checked bags will damage film.

■ Passengers have a right to be screened a second time in a private location.

BY LESLIE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many air travelers in the United States apparently still haven't received the word about leaving their handguns and knives behind when they go to the airport. Not to mention the chain saws, land mines and gunpowder, too.

More than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, air travelers still are trying to carry thousands of potentially deadly items on planes every month.

The Transportation Security Administration, which took over security screening at 450 airports in February 2002, said Tuesday it had confiscated 15.6 million prohibited items, including 2,150 guns, 73,241 boxcutters and 4.7 million knives through the end of October.

Billie Vincent, former security chief for the Federal Aviation Administration, blames stupidity and forgetfulness in most cases.

"How do you deal with people who have to know about 9/11 and, even inadvertently, are still trying to get knives onto planes?" he asked.

In October alone, screeners seized ammunition 2,000 times, along with 170,940 knives and 73 guns.

TSA spokesman Amy von Walter said local law enforcement officials have arrested people caught with prohibited items in some cases. It's up to local prosecutors to decide on criminal charges, she said.

A college student who hid bags of boxcutters and fake bombs in the lavatories of four Southwest Airlines jets last year pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor as part of a plea bargain with prosecutors.

The student, Nathaniel Hewitt, said he was trying to expose what he called gaps in aviation security. By taking a dangerous weapon aboard an aircraft, he could have been charged with a federal felony that carries a possible 10-year prison sentence.

Government officials believe the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers used boxcutters to commandeer the four jets that crashed that day.

## Cuddly contraband

Federal Transportation Security Administration screeners found 15.6 million prohibited items at the nation's airports between February 2002 and the end of October 2004.

Knives	4.7 million
Box cutters	73,241
Guns	2,150

A loaded handgun was discovered inside this cuddly bear as it was X-rayed in Orlando, Fla., on July 12, 2003.



Items that didn't make it on board

Screeners at Minneapolis International Airport found and confiscated these prohibited items at security checkpoints.

Brass knuckles  
Lipstick knife  
Grenade torch lighter



SOURCE: Transportation Security Administration

Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio, ranking Democrat on the House aviation subcommittee, said most of the seized items are trivial.

Some have not been so innocent. The TSA has found knives disguised as lipstick, a radio with a handgun inside, a loaded gun stuffed into a teddy bear. Several people have tried to bring chain saws onto planes.

They haven't found everything, though.

DeFazio, who has reviewed classified reports on the screeners' performance, said they have trouble finding artfully concealed objects.

Better X-ray machines are on the market, DeFazio said, but Congress hasn't given the TSA enough money to buy new ones.



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Include a return mailing address and Santa will respond with a personalized postcard in the mail. Children's names may also appear in the "News from the North Pole" section of the European edition of STARS AND STRIPES on the December 20th & 21st. Wishes must be emailed before December 15th.

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Inserted in STARS AND STRIPES on Thursday, November 18 (Germany & Europe) and Monday, November 29 (Italy & Turkey)

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Additional copies of the Iraqi Map can be ordered from European Stars and Stripes by calling: (0) 49-6155-601-349





# Texas mom gave hint before baby's death

BY LISA FALKENBERG  
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Her method was unique, but the case of a mother who admitted killing her baby daughter by severing the child's arms bears striking resemblance to high-profile cases of other Texas women who suffered mental illness before killing their children. Dena Schlosser, 35, was charged

with capital murder Monday after calmly telling a 911 operator that she had cut off the arms of 11-month-old Margaret. Police found Schlosser sitting in her living room, covered in blood, a church hymn playing in the background.

Schlosser's husband, John, told an official with Texas' Family and Protective Services that his wife

had referenced a Bible scripture the night before the killing and told him she wanted to "give her children to God," according to an FPS affidavit that led a judge to award the agency temporary custody of the couple's two older children.

Jennifer Leung wrote in the affidavit that John Schlosser did not appear alarmed by his wife's comment or see it as a sign that she

would harm her child.

"The FPS was greatly concerned about Mr. Schlosser's comments and because he had not taken measures to protect the infant," Leung wrote.

John Schlosser said he can't make sense of what has happened and wants his daughters back. Dallas-Fort Worth television station KTVT reported Tuesday night.

Legal and psychiatric experts say the cases are no more common in Texas than in other states, but the brutal methods have garnered attention.

Yates drowned her five children in the family's Houston bathtub in 2001, and East Texas mother Deanna Lancy last year bashed her three sons' skulls with rocks, killing the two eldest and maiming the toddler.

Another woman from the suburban Dallas town of Plano, where Schlosser lives, suffered psychotic delusions before drowning her daughters last fall. And a woman in Brownsville is accused of helping her common-law husband beat her three children.

"Texas seems to be a lightning rod," said George Parnham, the Houston attorney who defended Yates. "I don't necessarily go with the idea that we're wackos down here."

Parnham said the attention on the Yates case led media to pay more attention to the cases that followed, creating an illusion that Texas has more mothers killing children.



Schlosser



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## Trauma center closed

LOS ANGELES — A hospital trauma center in one of the city's poorest, most gang-ridden neighborhoods has been shut down despite pleas from politicians, residents and civil rights leaders.

The county Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to close the unit at Los Angeles County's Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center.

King/Drew is the only public hospital in South Los Angeles, a neighborhood plagued by gang violence, with shooting victims sometimes dropped off outside the hospital doors. Over the years, U.S. military doctors have trained at the trauma center because so many gunshot wounds are treated there.

## New rabies treatment

WAUWATOSA, Wis. — A unique combination of drugs has made a 15-year-old girl the first known human to survive rabies without vaccination, doctors said.

A team of physicians gambled on an experimental treatment and induced a coma in Jeanna Giese to stave off the usually fatal infection, said Dr. Rodney Willoughby, a pediatric disease infection specialist at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

"No one had really done this before, even in animals," Willoughby said. "None of the drugs are fancy. If this works it can be done in a lot of countries."

Jeanna was infected when she was bitten by a bat while at church Sept. 12 but did not seek treatment. She began showing rabies symptoms Oct. 13 and was hospitalized two days later.

From The Associated Press



## Turkey Tidbits

# Early explorers gobbled up wild turkeys

BY GREG LAVINE  
Salt Lake Tribune

Before slicing into that Thanksgiving turkey on Thursday, take a moment to consider the bird's international journey to reach the dinner table.

Though native only to the Americas, the domesticated turkey, which has come to be known as the broad breasted white, voyaged back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean with stops in Spain and England in the 1500s. From its original home somewhere in Central America, culinary connoisseurs helped spread the turkey across Europe before returning it to the New World to eventually become the focal point of Thanksgiving.

And while it remains a mystery as to whether the original turkey subspecies exists today, the search for those elusive birds one day could provide genetic information to help their plump, grocery store-bound relatives.

European explorers encountered the strange birds in the early 1500s as they probed into Central America, where indigenous residents raised the domesticated creatures throughout the region, according to "The Wild Turkey: Its History and Domestication" by A.W. Schorger.

"The turkey was domesticated in Central America and Mexico and hauled back by some of the early Spaniards," said Har-

ley Shaw, a retired turkey researcher who formerly worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Shaw said though researchers may never know how the first turkeys were tamed, the birds are easy to domesticate. The crops that ancient farmers planted may have attracted wild turkeys, which were in turn were captured and incorporated into the food supply.

Schorger noted that by 1511, Spanish royalty had requested turkeys be brought to Europe for breeding purposes. This New World delicacy quickly spread by the mid-1500s to places such as Italy, France, Germany, Norway and England.

The popularity of the creatures prompt-

ed the Pilgrims to include turkeys in the supplies sent with the first colonists who founded Jamestown, Va., in 1607, Schorger wrote. Early colonists apparently shared the plumper-looking wild turkeys roaming the area in favor of their own breeds.

As the colonies evolved in the 1630s, the turkey was strictly for the tables of the well-to-do. A century later, the turkey moved from upper-class fare to commoners' meat. Soon after the pioneers pushed into the Western frontier, the turkeys followed. The birds reached the West Coast in the 1830s, according to Schorger.

In 2003, the nation consumed about 274 million turkeys, including about 46 million at Thanksgiving alone, according to the National Turkey Federation.



AP

Two heritage, or "heirloom," turkeys eye each other at S&B Farm in Petaluma, Calif., earlier this month. In the last three years, farmers in California and across the country have been raising a growing number of turkey breeds that were originally consumed by the pilgrims and have become nearly extinct.

## Old turkey breeds growing popular

BY DAISY NGUYEN  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It's a turkey with a proud heritage, so much so that gourmet cooks seem to be flocking to poultry farms this Thanksgiving season to buy one.

Mary and Rick Pitman say the phone at their Fresno-area farm has hardly stopped ringing since summer. The question is always the same: Is there still time to reserve a heritage turkey for Thursday's feast? "There's such a huge demand for these turkeys, I've never seen anything like it," said Mary Pitman. Even a heritage bird's price of \$3 to \$7 a pound — a factory farm-raised turkey costs \$1.40 a pound — doesn't faze the callers.

Consumers with discerning palates say it's a small price to pay for a bird they find tastier and more flavorful than the modern, mass-produced turkeys found in supermarkets. People from as far away as Florida have been calling Sylvia Mavalwalla's farm in Petaluma to order one, and those who live nearby insist on driving straight to her ranch to pick up a fresh bird.

With word about heritages

spreading, the Pitmans say they expect to sell 6,000 birds this year, 5,000 more than last year when they first started raising them. Mavalwalla said she will sell 110, up from 35 last year.

About 274 million turkeys were raised in the United States in 2003, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and most of them were mass-produced Broadbreasted White turkeys.

A census conducted in 1997 by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy found only 1,335 heritage turkeys in the country. This year, about 20,000 were raised, according to Slow Food USA, which launched a campaign in 2001 to reacquaint Americans with the birds.

Preservationists believe revived interest in eight varieties of turkeys such as the American Bronze, Bourbon Red and Narragansett will help keep the food supply diverse and save the breeds from extinction. People who want to try a heritage bird may have missed out this year if they haven't already ordered, but Lesser says they can reserve early for next year. That way farmers can plan the year's stock.

## More ordering Thanksgiving to go

BY ESTES THOMPSON  
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Everyone wants a nice Thanksgiving spread, but not everyone has the time — or culinary know-how — to cook the traditional turkey, dressing, veggies and desserts and get them on the table together.

Those who don't head to the grocery store.

More and more customers are buying complete Thanksgiving meals to take home, according to retailers and food-trend experts. Nearly every grocery store with a deli now offers the meals, which consumers can order in advance and pick up on Thanksgiving eve.

Last year, Fresh Market's 44 stores from Florida to Virginia sold a few hundred complete meals.

"This year, we sold several

thousand," said spokesman Eric Blasing. "We actually sold out."

Fresh Market has "some really good pies," Blasing said, and customers have said they don't tell their guests they are store-bought.

"What's interesting to me personally is you think about Thanksgiving being the home thing ... no more, baby," he said. "I would love to know how many people don't tell people that dinner was ordered in."

"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."

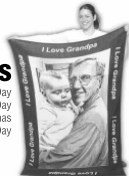
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# Beware of exploding cell phones

## Battery overheating may cause injuries from blast, fire

BY ELIZABETH WOLFE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Curtis Sathre said it was like a bomb going off. His 13-year-old son Michael stood stunned, his ears ringing, his hand gushing blood and his body covered in black ash.

In a split second last August, fragments from Michael's exploding cell phone had hit him between the eyes and lodged in the ceiling of the family's home in Oceanside, Calif.

Over the past two years, federal safety officials have received 83 reports of cell phones exploding

or catching fire, usually because of incompatible, faulty or counterfeit batteries or chargers. Burns to the face, neck, leg and hip are among the dozens of injury reports the agency has received.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is providing tips for

cell phone users to avoid such accidents and has stepped up oversight of the wireless industry. There have been three voluntary battery recalls, and the CPSC is working with companies to create better battery standards.

"CPSC is receiving more and more reports of incidents involving cell phones, and we're very concerned of the potential for serious injuries or more fires," said agency spokesman Scott Wolfson.

U.S. phone makers and carriers say most fires and explosions are caused by counterfeit batteries and note that in a country with some 170 million cell phone users, the number of accidents is extremely low.

"Is it a problem? It has turned up, you bet. But statistically it is extraordinarily rare," said John Walls, spokesman for the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association. "But the fact that it has happened certainly has the industry's attention."

Some consumer advocates say the cause goes beyond bad batteries making their way to the market. They point to the increasing pressure on battery and phone makers to fit more capabilities into small instruments.

"If you're cramming more and more power in a small space, what you're making is a small bomb," said Carl Hill, president of the California-based Wireless Consumers Alliance, which has been tracking incidents of cell phone fires and explosions.

Though legitimate batteries can go wrong, there is a greater chance that poorly made, counterfeit ones will lack safety devices to detect overheating or overcharging. The lithium-ion batteries found in most cell phones can overheat if, for example, heat vents are covered.

The CPSC is trying to determine if improved venting is enough by itself to ensure safety.

Hoping to address problems that may lie beyond their supply lines, members of the wireless industry began collaborating last week with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a standard-setting organization, to create voluntary design and performance standards for all batteries.



Michael Sathre, 13, holds the remains of his cell phone at his home Friday in Oceanside, Calif. The phone's battery exploded in August, wounding his hand.

## Cell phone tips

Wireless companies and U.S. federal safety officials offer cell phone safety tips:

- When removing battery, avoid putting it in contact with metal, such as keys or coins.

- Don't expose battery to water or extreme temperatures.

- Avoid crushing battery or dropping it against hard surfaces, especially when fully charged.

- If bought separately, make sure battery and charger are compatible with the phone model. Check that components are not manufactured for phones sold in other countries.

- Buy parts from an authorized dealer, carrier or legitimate outlet, rather than second-hand dealers or off the Internet. This decreases the chance components will be incompatible or poorly made.

Battery recalls announced this year by the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Jan. 23: Kyocera Wireless Corp. recalls about 140,000 batteries used in some Kyocera 7155 Smartphones.

- June 24: Verizon Wireless recalls about 50,000 batteries used in some LG-branded TM-510 cell phones.

- Oct. 28: Kyocera recalls about 1 million batteries used in some Kyocera Slider, K400 (Phantom, Blade and Rave models) and 3200 Series cell phones.

More product details are also available online at <http://www.cpsc.gov>

From The Associated Press

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## Pennsylvania Turnpike workers go on strike

PHILADELPHIA—Toll collectors on the Pennsylvania Turnpike went on strike Wednesday, just as Americans were hitting the road for Thanksgiving.

The strike was announced by union leaders. Anticipating a walkout, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission decided to waive tolls on Wednesday and have nonunion employees staff tollbooths Thursday.

Negotiations have been rocky between turnpike officials and unions representing toll collectors, maintenance workers and office employees.

In a joint statement, Teamsters locals 77 and 250 said managers refused to meet with union leaders Tuesday night, saying members should simply accept management's offer.

"We truly regret the inconvenience to the traveling public, but, every one should remember that we were left with no realistic alternatives," according to a statement released by the two Teamsters locals.

Union members had been working under the terms of a contract that expired Sept. 30, 2003.

From The Associated Press

## IN THE WORLD

## Ukrainian premier declared election winner

BY JIM HEINTZ

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Election officials on Wednesday declared Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich the winner of Ukraine's presidential election, sharpening a crisis sparked by the opposition candidate's allegations that the vote was brazenly fraudulent.

Yanukovich won 49.46 percent of Sunday's vote, against Viktor Yushchenko's 46.61 percent, the commission said in announcing the final results.

Petro Poroshenko, a pro-Yushchenko lawmaker, said that "the members of the Central Election Commission have taken on themselves the responsibility for a coup d'état."

"Now the streets will speak."

Now the people will speak," he said.

Numerous fistfights broke out between lawmakers after the results were announced.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday the United States cannot accept the results of elections in Ukraine, which the opposition says was marred by fraud.

Powell warned "there will be consequences" for the United States' relationship with Ukraine as a result of the developments in the former Soviet bloc nation.

A huge crowd of Yushchenko supporters has gathered in central Kiev over the past three days to push for the election results to be overturned and Yushchenko declared the winner. Within minutes of the commission's announcement, some protesters

began heading from their encampment on Kiev's central avenue to the presidential administration building.

The building was the scene of a tense standoff Tuesday night, when protesters faced a platoon of shield-wielding riot police.

Outside the election commission, throngs of Yanukovich supporters celebrated by drinking vodka and shouting their candidate's name.

Inside, pro-Yushchenko lawmakers chanted "Shame! Shame!" and Yanukovich's supporters applauded.

No Yushchenko supporters were seen outside the building, but there were fears that the two sides eventually could clash, with the official announcement of the results heating emotions in both camps.



Thousands of demonstrators waving Ukrainian flags gather Wednesday to protest alleged fraud in the presidential elections on the main square of the Ukrainian capital Kiev.

The commission announcement came after a flurry of statements on the possibility of negotiations to a U.N. Security Council.

Experts estimate Iran is not far away from being able to run the 1,500 centrifuges that are needed for making the 20 kilograms — or nearly 45 pounds — of highly enriched uranium needed for one crude weapon a year.

The IAEA had no immediate comment. But another diplomat who is familiar with the agency said it was unhappy with the new Iranian demand.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, in Egypt for an international conference on Iraq, says America and Iran could restore relations one day, but only after Iran has changed course on terrorism and nuclear development.

"It is not in the best interest of international relations for there to be a permanent enmity or animosity between two states," the outgoing secretary told ABC on Tuesday.

## Diplomats: Iran seeking exception to uranium enrichment activities

BY GEORGE JAHN

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran is seeking a last-minute exception to its commitment to stop all uranium enrichment activities by demanding the right to operate dozens of centrifuges, diplomats said Wednesday.

The Iranians have told the International Atomic Energy Agency — the U.N. nuclear watchdog — that they want to operate about 24 of the centrifuges "for research purposes," the diplomats said.

They have asked the IAEA to exempt that equipment from agency seals meant to ensure the enrichment program — which can be used to make nuclear weapons — is completely at a standstill, one of the diplomats said.

The move comes on the eve of an IAEA board meeting that will

examine Iran's compliance to international demands meant to reduce suspicions about its nuclear activities. Among them are calls for a suspension of all enrichment and related activities — something Iran agreed to earlier this month in a deal with European negotiators.

A senior EU diplomat who is also a delegate to the board meeting said the European Union was resisting the demand, which it viewed as contravening a Nov. 7 Paris agreement negotiated between Iran and Germany, France and Britain, on behalf of the European Union.

That deal commits Tehran to full suspension of enrichment and all related activities while the two sides discuss a pact meant to provide Iran with EU technical and economic aid and other concessions.

Iran said Monday it froze all uranium enrichment programs, weakening a U.S. effort to refer

Tehran's suspect nuclear activities to the U.N. Security Council.

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Three freed hostages, from left, Annette Flanagan of Northern Ireland, Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, and Shaipe Hebbi of Kosovo, leave the Kabul palace of Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday. The three U.N. workers were freed Tuesday after being held hostage.

## Freed U.N. hostages ready to rejoin families

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three U.N. workers freed by kidnappers in Afghanistan rejoiced at their freedom Wednesday and said they were sustained through 27 days of captivity by thoughts of their family and friends.

Looking tired but happy a day after their release, Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, Annette Flanagan from Northern Ireland and Shaipe Hebbi of Kosovo met privately with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

They also had a tearful reunion with colleagues at a U.N. residence and made a statement that cast no light on their mysterious abduction, but made clear their yearning to share the "wonderful feeling" of freedom with loved ones.

"The hope of getting back together with them kept us going," Flanagan read from a sheet of paper, Nayan and Hebbi at her side.

"We thank them for their love, their prayers and their friendship. We are looking forward to

joining our families and returning to our work."

Later Wednesday, Nayan said farewell to officials at Kabul airport before boarding a U.N. plane clutching a copy of former U.S. President Bill Clinton's memoirs. Officials did not divulge his immediate destination.

The two women were expected to depart from Afghanistan in the coming days.

Armed men seized the three, who helped organize Afghanistan's landmark October presidential election, on a busy Kabul street on Oct. 28, the first such abduction since the Taliban fell in late 2001.

A Taliban splinter group claimed responsibility for the kidnappings, suggesting anti-government rebels were adopting the tactics of Iraqi insurgents. The group claimed Tuesday that the government had agreed to release 24 jailed comrades.

But officials insist they did not agree to pay a ransom or free any jailed militants to secure their release. They have declined to identify the kidnappers or to explain how the hostages became free.

## Blair government accused of playing politics with fear of terrorist attacks

The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair faced growing accusations Wednesday that his government is playing politics with fear and using the threat of terrorism to boost its chances of re-election.

Political rivals are outraged at comments by Cabinet minister Peter Mandelson, who has said he would be safer under the current Labour government.

Opponents accused him of cynically copying tactics used during the U.S. presidential election campaign when Republicans questioned Democrat John Kerry's ability to fight terror.

"He is trying to create a cli-

mate of fear in this country which I think is a very dangerous thing to do," said Michael Ancram, foreign affairs spokesman for the main opposition Conservative Party. "Quite apart from anything else, if he goes around saying we are safe from terrorism under Labour, that is a challenge to the terrorist. It is an irresponsible thing to do. He is playing party politics with an issue which really should be above and beyond party politics."

Crime and security will be key battlegrounds in national elections expected in May next year. Blair promised to be "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" before he came to power

in 1997, but is vulnerable to criticism from the Conservatives.

Although overall crime has fallen, violent crime is on the increase and polling data shows many people feel insecure.

Ministers announced a series of new measures Tuesday to combat crime and terrorism, as they unveiled the legislative program for the coming year. Proposals include national identity cards, a new police agency similar to the FBI and a promise to further counterterrorism legislation if the government is re-elected.

The string of bills is seen as an attempt to outflank the Conservatives, who want to be seen as the natural party of law and order, and to neutralize a line of attack.



# Austrian officials pressed to settle in cable car accident that killed 155

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE  
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Lawyers representing the families of 155 skiers and snowboarders killed in an alpine cable car fire in 2000 were pressing Austrian officials Wednesday for the more than \$155 million in compensation for the relatives.

Attorneys from Austria, Germany and the United States said they planned to deliver an "ultimatum" to a commission working to determine a cash settlement for those who lost loved ones in the Nov. 11, 2000, disaster.

The families are demanding that the panel establish a floor for a collective settlement on behalf of relatives who have launched civil proceedings in various countries. They are seeking \$65 million from the Austrian government; \$65 million from Gletscherbahnen Kaprun Capital AG, the company that operated the cable car; and \$26 million from the province of Salzburg and the city of Kaprun where the disaster occurred.

"The families are incredibly im-

patient. They feel like it's been four years and no one's done anything for them. They're bitter and frustrated," U.S. attorney Ed Fagan said.

Fagan said relatives would press Austria's Justice Ministry to contribute to the settlement over fear of being included in a U.S. class-action lawsuit.

The victims were headed for a day of fun on a glacier atop the Kitzsteinhorn mountain near Kaprun, a popular ski resort 60 miles south of Salzburg in the heart of Austria's Alps, when the cable car bringing them to the summit caught fire in a tunnel.

Most of those who perished in the inferno — Austria's deadliest peacetime disaster — were from Austria and Germany. Eight were Americans, including a family of four and a newly engaged couple.

Others were from Japan, Slovenia, the Netherlands and Britain.

Only 12 people managed to escape the crowded car as it turned into a fireball, sucking fresh air into the tunnel and creating a chimney effect that produced



Courtesy of EPU Television

On Nov. 11, 2000, 155 skiers and snowboarders were killed in an alpine cable car fire in Kaprun, Austria. Families of the victims are seeking more than \$155 million in compensation.

heat so intense only the reinforced steel skeleton of the car was left intact.

The car was part of what is known as a funicular train, which ascended the mountain on a track while being pulled by a steel cable.

Authorities say a defective space heater in the cabin caused a heating element to come loose, causing hydraulic brake oil in nearby pipes to overheat, drip onto the plastic-coated floor and set it alight.

Sixteen people — including cable car company officials, technicians and government inspectors — were acquitted in February on charges of criminal negligence in a verdict that relatives denounced as a miscarriage of justice.

A judge had ruled that there was insufficient evidence to find the defendants responsible for the conditions that caused the blaze. All 16 had pleaded innocent.

Austrian prosecutors in September appealed eight of the 16 acquittals, and lawyers for the victims' families have filed separate civil proceedings in Germany and the United States seeking compensation.

Fagan said the commission's first settlement offer was just over \$9,750 per victim. In subsequent negotiations that rose to \$78,000 and the latest offer was for the families to split insurance policies totaling about \$256 million, or roughly \$170,000 per victim he said.

"Now they're beginning to talk money," Fagan said. He said the commission's reluctance to adequately settle the case called into question "whether victims could ever get economic justice in Austria."

The families are holding the Austrian government responsible for allegedly having ordered the defective space heater to be installed in the cable car and having failed to ensure adequate ventilation in the tunnel.

## German breaks record

FRANKFURT, Germany — A 38-year-old with degrees in psychology, education and computer science needed only 11.8 seconds to calculate the 13th root of a 100-digit number in his head, setting a new record, organizers said.

Onlookers with electronic calculators needed more time to solve the problem that Gert Mittring figured on his own, with two umpires checking the time at a math museum in the small German town of Giessen near Frankfurt in western Germany. But his feat will be in the Guinness Book of World Records, because the book no longer recognizes root calculations of random numbers due to the difficulty of standardizing the challenge, spokesman Sam Knight said Wednesday.

## French anguish

PARIS — General Electric employee Nadine Mesliars says dealing with computer software in any language is tricky, but it's even worse when you're French and the jargon is in English.

So what's the answer? Sue! French employees of a GE branch that makes medical equipment, tired of struggling with company e-mails, manuals and meetings in English, took their fight to court on Tuesday. The lawsuit, which GE says has become the main language in their branch of GE in recent years for instruction manuals, company e-mails and meetings. Older employees, hired when English was not a requirement, find it particularly hard to adapt, they claim.

## Heroin seizure

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish police have seized 359 pounds of heroin in two operations in Istanbul and detained eight suspected drug dealers, authorities said Tuesday.

Police searched the home of a suspected dealer in Istanbul on Friday and seized 293 pounds of heroin slushed in wall tiles, police said in a statement. Another 66 pounds of heroin was captured in another raid on Nov. 13, police added.

## Bomb plot trial

MUNICH, Germany — The alleged ringleader of a neo-Nazi plot to bomb a new Munich synagogue and three of his lieutenants went on trial Wednesday on weapons and terrorism charges.

Martin Wiese, an unemployed 28-year-old, faces charges of leading a terrorist organization and other offenses.

It is the first time to have been in charge of a Munich-based group of right-wing radicals that prosecutors said planned to bomb the Nov. 9, 2000, dedication of the new synagogue and community center, which was attended by the German presidents and Jewish leaders.

Nov. 9 is the anniversary of the Nazi's 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom in which thousands of Jewish businesses and synagogues were vandalized, about 100 Jews murdered and thousands more deported to concentration camps.

From The Associated Press

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# China executes man who slashed 25 children

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A man who slashed 25 children with a kitchen knife at a grade school in eastern China was executed Wednesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Jia Qingyou, 36, had appealed his sentence at the Shandong High Court, but it upheld the original ruling, saying the Sept. 20 crime was "especially cruel and the results were especially serious," Xinhua reported.

Jia also held a 9-year-old girl hostage for an hour before he was captured by police.

Xinhua earlier said Jia was the father of a girl at the school in

Ying County. He had a quarrel with another local resident and looked for the person at the school when he dropped his daughter off.

When he couldn't find the person, he began attacking the children with a kitchen knife, Xinhua said. Twenty-five children were wounded in the attack.

The method of committing the crime was especially vile and caused great harm to society," the high court was quoted as saying in its Nov. 4 ruling.

In the worst recent school violence, an employee with a history of schizophrenia killed one student and slashed 14 children and three teachers on Aug. 4 at a Beijing kindergarten.

## Pregnant sister shot

**CA** SACRAMENTO — A 19-year-old man was arrested over the weekend on suspicion of shooting his pregnant 21-year-old sister to death and critically wounding his brother-in-law.

Police said they were told by relatives at the scene that the 19-year-old had a fistfight with his sister's 24-year-old husband, then got a handgun and shot him four times.

At some point, the man allegedly shot his sister once in the chest, police said. She and her unborn child were pronounced dead at the police by firefighters.

Police did not release the names of those involved.

## Constitutional conflict

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — A federal judge said a 2003 Arkansas law intended to shield minors from pornographic material in stores and libraries violates the U.S. Constitution. The law required books, magazines and videos containing material "harmful to minors" to be kept separate from other displayed material. The judge said the law restricted access and display of non-obscene material.

## Breezy future

**MA** HYANNIS — A long-anticipated federal report on a proposed wind farm in Nantucket Sound says the project would provide significant benefits, with little long-term environmental damage.

The 4,000-page draft report prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, released Tuesday, indicates the project would likely cause less environmental damage than many have feared.

The 26-page executive summary also cites benefits such as reduced emissions from power plants burning fossil fuels, an increase in year-round jobs and diversification in New England's fuel supply, which is heavily dependent on oil and natural gas.

The report's release has started a 60-day public comment period, during which four public hearings will be held.

The \$700 million proposal that Cape Wind Associates proposed three years ago for Horseshoe Shoal has drawn fierce opposition from boaters, business owners, fishermen, wildlife protection groups and property owners.

## Housing project burns

**CA** ALAMEDA — For many residents of the Bessie Coleman Court apartments, this was going to be the first holiday season in a long time when they would be able to cook their own turkey dinners.

Many of the formerly homeless women and their children had recently moved into the transitional and permanent housing in Alameda, and the place was just starting to feel like home.

But a fire late last week destroyed their homes. As quickly as flames and smoke spread through the 15 small apartments, more than 20 people were sent back to the brink of homelessness.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

"I'm kind of worried that people might throw in the towel because something like this can be so discouraging," said Elaine de Coligny, executive director of the Building Futures With Women and Children, one of the nonprofits that operate the housing project. "We're about trying to end people's homelessness."

## Making room for stores

**KY** LEXINGTON — The graves of 18 horses, including Kentucky Derby winner "Plaudit," may be exhumed to allow two retailers to build stores. Developer Patrick Madden asked the city to rezone 58 acres of the property to build a Home Depot and a Super Wal-Mart. Madden said he plans to move the horse cemetery to a more prominent spot within the shopping center.

## Crackdown on crabbing

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — State game wardens out to nab illegal crabbers in the San Francisco Bay have seen it all: Dungeness crabs stuffed in hushpaws, backpacks, purses and secret compartments. They have heard it all, too, including lines like "Those aren't my crabs in the back of my truck."

Saturday night was no different. The first driver the wardens pulled over at Municipal Pier in San Francisco opened his trunk to

reveal a single legal red rock crab in a bucket. But further inspection turned up a black backpack crawling with six illegal Dungeness crabs.

The man got a ticket — an infraction that could end up costing him more than \$650 — and pointers on how to tell a Dungeness crab from a rock crab, a distinction he clearly already understood, seeing he had stashed the Dungeness in a backpack.

## Change to tradition

**NC** WILMINGTON — Security concerns at a city water plant are threatening a holiday tradition in which residents decorate a centuries-old oak.

Security consultants, as required by homeland security laws, found that a fence is necessary around the plant to keep it safe from terror threats.

The proposed fence would prohibit people from gathering around the tree, as they have been doing every holiday season since 1928.

Many city officials said they want to try to preserve the tradition if possible.

Others consider the tree an eyesore.

"That is an ugly tree," council member Jim Quinn said of the oak, which has been kept upright by a utility pole since being damaged in a 1985 storm. "Just because you have been doing it a long time doesn't mean it is the best thing you could be doing."

## DNA analyst fired

**MD** GERMANTOWN — An analyst at Cellmark's DNA testing laboratory was fired for allegedly falsifying data. Cellmark, the world's largest private DNA testing firm, says the falsification occurred in only 20 tests, but says it's investigating other cases the analyst worked on. Some of the 20 tests were performed for the Los Angeles Police Department and some were done for the FBI.

## Contractors killed

**TN** KNOXVILLE — EOD Technology, a munitions cleanup and security contractor, confirmed that two employees were killed in Iraq last week. Aaron Iversen, 38, and David Randolph, 33, died during an insurgent attack on their military convoy near Baghdad, raising the company's fatality toll to five in the past year. EODT specializes in unexploded ordnance cleanup and security services for the U.S. military. Most employees have served in the military.

## Wrench in sewage plans

**NH** HOOKSETT — Plans to expand sewage plants in two New Hampshire communities are on hold because of decreased oxygen levels in the Merrimack River.

Pollution in the Merrimack River is increasing because of the population boom in southern New Hampshire. Treated sewage pumped into the river is driving oxygen levels down — choking fish and other aquatic life.



**Please, help me cope** Arthur-Lovington's Chase Coleman, left, after losing to Stockton, 18-13, in the 2004 Illinois High School Association Class 1A Football Playoffs semifinals in Arthur, Ill.



**Dedicated to Christmas** Danny O'Sullivan secures a cable around the trunk of Dallas' civic Christmas tree outside of Dallas City Hall.



**On the lookout** A snowy owl is perched on a chimney top in Hazelton, Pa.



**Wet charity case** From left, United Way President Jason Holmes, Campaign Chair Rocky Gill and Board Chair Leo Rossler, all of United Way of Tyler/Smith County jump into the pool at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas, as part of a deal for meeting a fund-raising goal.



**Yummy snack** Digger, one of Elizabeth Chambers' hamsters, eats part of a hot dog during the Terryville Lions Club-sponsored health and safety fair at the Lyceum in Terryville, Conn.



**Smiling for a good cause** Ashley Hopson, 12, right, is having a good time along with other Danville High School Junior High students delivering almost 2,000 canned goods in an assembly line to the pantry at the First Baptist Church in Danville, Iowa.

## Prices on the rise

**DC** WASHINGTON — Plans for a baseball stadium in Southeast are heating up the area's real estate market. Real estate agents said prices for row-houses around the site have risen from \$200,000 to \$240,000 in the past six months. Critics of the planned \$440 million stadium fear it will push poor residents out of the area.

City officials said they're setting aside affordable housing.

## Back on the job

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Unionized hotel workers in San Francisco agreed to return to work following an eight-week lockout, dealing a major boost to the city's tourism industry on the eve of the busy holiday season.

About 4,000 maids, bellhops, cooks and other hourly wage earners returned to their jobs Tuesday while contract negotiations continue, Mayor Gavin Newsom announced.

Newsom said the group representing 14 luxury hotels agreed to end the lockout of union workers for two months. Negotiations will resume after Thanksgiving.

## Warming the bench

**DE** WILMINGTON — The state will spend between \$500,000 and \$600,000 for improvements to the heating system at the New Castle County Courthouse. Since the building opened two years ago, workers and visitors have complained the 14-story building gets too cold in the winter. The state will try to recoup the cost from the firm that designed the building.

## Packed prisons

**KY** LOUISVILLE — Kentucky's prison population has exploded by 600 percent since 1970 and will keep growing because of "irrational" penalties enacted by lawmakers, according to a study. University of Kentucky law professor Robert Lawson, who wrote Kentucky's penal code, says the state's budget for housing prisoners has risen from \$7 million to more than \$300 million since 1970 and is threatening to bankrupt the system.

## Malpractice protest

**MD** HAGERSTOWN — Doctors of physicians in Washington County have postponed elective surgeries or temporarily closed their offices to protest rising malpractice insurance premiums. Protest organizers say 50 doctors are participating and they've been joined by physicians at Prince George's Hospital Center. State lawmakers say they'll meet this week to discuss the issue.

## Penalty pushed aside

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — A judge temporarily halted a recently approved state constitutional amendment that would revoke the license of any doctor who commits three acts of medical malpractice. The circuit court judge sided in part with hospitals seeking to clarify the measure through the Legislature or the

courts before it is implemented. The amendment was approved by 70 percent of voters this month.

## State workers get raise

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Gov. Don Carcieri has approved nearly \$350,000 in raises for some mid- and high-level state employees.

Those receiving the raises include top managers in the Departments of Administration and Environmental Management. Most raises go to lower-grade employees.

The largest raise appears to go to Steven Wright, superintendent of state parks. He's to get \$12,500, which bumps his salary to \$73,000. Officials said Wright has assumed additional duties, including supervising the DEM's Web site.

## Flu shots on the way

**TN** NASHVILLE — Tennessee is getting 137,000 more flu vaccines, the state health commissioner said. The additional doses will go first to residents in long-term care, then to hospital employees who care for patients and people in high-risk groups.

## Bike messenger killed

**NY** NEW YORK — A bicycle messenger was killed when the door of a delivery truck opened in his path, knocking him to the ground, police said.

The accident happened shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday when the 42-year-old man, whose name was not released pending notification of his family, was making a delivery on Eighth Avenue between West 48th and West 49th streets, police said.

The passenger door of a truck parked on Eighth Avenue opened in his face, sending him sprawling head-first onto the pavement.

## DMV tester arrested

**CA** REDWOOD CITY — A Department of Motor Vehicles employee has been arrested on suspicion of fudging seven teenage girls during driving tests, according to authorities.

Calvin Hoang Cat, 37, will be charged with 14 misdemeanor counts in connection with incidents that happened from July through September, said Steve Wagstaff, chief deputy district attorney for San Mateo County. "He was fudging the private areas of victims while the test was being conducted," Wagstaff said. "Most were just 16, and all were taking their first test."

## Escape plan foiled

**FL** TAMPA — Three jail inmates and another man were arrested this week after sheriff's deputies uncovered a plot to smuggle guns into the jail and escape, officials said.

Ernesto Ibarra, 21, was arrested Wednesday as he attempted to buy guns from an undercover sheriff's deputy, according to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's intelligence unit had been tipped to the plan and conducted a sting operation.

Stories and photos from wire services







# Stripes Travel



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The Christmas market in Frankfurt, Germany, with the Römer, or city hall, in the background. At right, a sign advertises the hot, mulled wine called Glühwein. Learn more about German markets, including Frankfurt's, on Pages 25 and 26.

## Europe's Christmas markets beat the chill

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

**A**re the dark, dreary days getting to you? Worried about what to buy family and friends for Christmas? Just have that "Bah, humbug!" feeling?

Nothing is better for getting you in the holiday spirit than a good, old Christmas market.

The markets pop up all over Europe right about now — in France, Austria, Italy, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the U.K. — but especially in Germany.

In Germany, just about every town and village has a Christmas market. Known as *Weihnachtsmarkt*, *Christkindelmarkt* or *Adventsmarkt*, they vary in size, duration and the crowds they attract. But they all have much in common: hot mulled wine, food, rides for children, Christmas decorations and plenty of holiday cheer.

While Christmas markets can cure your blues, they do present one challenge — deciding which to visit. There is no easy solution, as each has its own particular attraction and charm.

Many are in historical settings, old town squares or

medieval castles. Some last only a day, others are only on the weekends leading to Christmas, and some run daily from now until nearly Christmas Eve.

The one-day markets are usually in local villages. They are good places to capture local atmosphere and get to know your neighbors.

Markets on the Advent weekends (Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas) are often in old, picturesque villages, which draw locals and tourists alike. Good examples are the markets in Michelstadt in the Odenwald, Bad Wimpfen on the Neckar River, and the medieval Christmas market at Ronneburg castle near Hanau.

The big ones are in the cities, and some of the best known, and most visited (i.e. crowded), are in Nürnberg, Frankfurt, Munich, Dresden, Heidelberg and Erfurt. We'll look at the Frankfurt, Heidelberg and Erfurt markets on Pages 25-26.

Whichever market(s) you choose this year, rest assured you'll enjoy a feast for the senses.

To help you plan, here is a sampling of markets compiled by Stripes' Karen Bradbury from information provided by tourist offices and Web sites.

Now there's no excuse not to trade your winter blues for some holiday cheer.

### CHRISTMAS MARKETS BY COUNTRY

#### AUSTRIA

Austrian National Tourist Office

Web site: [www.austria-tourism.at](http://www.austria-tourism.at)

#### BURGENLAND REGION

Bruck an der Mur: Dec. 3-5 and 17-19

Eisenstadt: Through Dec. 24

Halbturn: Saturdays and

Sundays, Nov. 27-Dec. 12

and Dec. 8

Kittsee-Castle: Nov. 26-28

Lockenhaus: Through Dec. 12

Purbach: Fridays, Saturdays

and Sundays, Dec. 3-12

#### CARINTHIA REGION

Gmünd: Dec. 2-24 with children's Advent Dec. 4

Klagenfurt: Through Dec. 24

Spittal: Nov. 27-Dec. 24

Velden: Nov. 26-Dec. 21

Villach: Nov. 27-Dec. 24

#### UPPER AUSTRIA REGION

Linz: Through Dec. 24

Steyr: Advent weekends

Unterweissenbach: Advent

weekends

Wolfgangsee: Nov. 26-Dec. 19

#### SALZBURGERLAND

Salzburg: Through Dec. 24 in

city center and Mirabell Square

SEE MARKETS, PAGE 22



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The focal point of the market in Michelstadt, Germany, market is around the town square with its historic town hall.

#### MARKETS, FROM PAGE 21

##### AUSTRIA, continued:

**Oberndorf:** Nov. 26-Dec. 31

**St Leonhard near Grödig:** Saturdays and Sundays Nov. 27-Dec. 19

**Koppl-Guggenthal:** Saturdays and Sundays Nov. 27-Dec. 19

##### SYRIA

**Kornberg Castle-Feldbach:** Nov. 30-Dec. 23

**Mariazell:** Nov. 26-Dec. 19

**Arienz-Resort Area:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Graz:** Nov. 27-Dec. 24

**Farrach Castle-Zeltweg:** Dec. 4-8

##### TYROL

**Innsbruck:** Dec. 19-24

**Seefeld:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Rattenberg:** Dec. 4, 12 and 18

**Mayrhofen:** Dec. 17-19

**Hall in Tyrol:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Imst:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Kufstein:** Advent weekends

**Plangegros St. Leonhard:** Nov. 28-Dec. 24

##### VORARLBERG REGION

**Dornbirn:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Schwarzenberg:** Nov. 25-Dec. 19

**Feldkirch:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Dornbirn:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

##### VIENNA

**Vienna Rathaus Park:** Through Dec. 24

**Spittelberg:** Through Dec. 23

**Schönbrunn:** Through Dec. 26

**Freyung:** Nov. 27-Dec. 23

##### BELGIUM

**Web site:** [www.visitbelgium.com](http://www.visitbelgium.com)

**Antwerp:** Dec. 10-23

**Brussels:** Marche aux Poissons and Place St. Catherine, Dec. 3-Jan. 2

**Brugge:** Nov. 29-Jan. 2

**Ghent:** Dec. 10-19

**Leuven:** Dec. 8-12

**Liège:** Dec. 3-30

**Mechelen:** Dec. 17-19

**Uccle:** Dec. 3-5

**Tubize:** Dec. 11-19

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

**Web site:** [www.cccc.info.cz](http://www.cccc.info.cz)

**www.visitczech.cz**

**Prague:** Dec. 4-Jan. 6

#### DENMARK

**Web site:** [www.visitdenmark.com](http://www.visitdenmark.com)

**Århus:** Christmas in Old Town, through Dec. 23, Christmas market Dec. 1-23

**Copenhagen:** Tivoli Gardens through Dec. 23

**Odense:** Dec. 4-5 and 11-12

**Horsens:** Dec. 1-23

#### England

**Web site:** [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)

**London:** Christmas craft fair and festive table, Nov. 26-28, Alexandra Palace

**Bath:** Dec. 2-12

**Durham:** Nov. 30-Dec. 1

**York:** St. Nicholas fayre, Nov. 25-28

**Worcester:** Christmas fayre, Nov. 25-28

**Lincoln:** Dec. 2-5

**South Brent:** Nov. 27 Winter Carnival

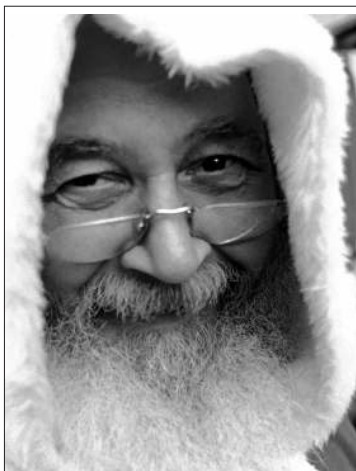
**Crowborough:** Nov. 27 Christmas Fun Day

**Ludlow:** Nov. 27-28 Medieval Fayre

**Wokingham:** Nov. 28

**Portsmouth:** Nov. 26-28

**Alnwick:** Dec. 1-31, market place



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

Well, he certainly could be Santa. Jean-Claude Brissac, 59, does a worthy impersonation at the Christmas market in Colmar, France.

**Swanse:** Dec. 1-31

**Sandwich:** Dec. 4

**Woodley:** Dec. 5

**Warwick Castle:** Dec. 11-Jan. 3

**Medieval Fair:** (Admission charged)

#### ESTONIA

**Web site:** [www.visitestonia.com](http://www.visitestonia.com)

**Tallinn:** Through Dec. 26, Raekoja plats

**Pamu:** Raahov Dec. 4, 11 and 18

#### FRANCE

**www.franceguide.com**

**Mulhouse:** Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 29

**Reims:** Christmas village, Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Calais:** Dec. 4-5, with parade 12 Dec.

## About this list

This year's Christmas market calendar was compiled by Stripes Calendar Editor Karen Bradbury from information from tourist offices and Web sites. It is as accurate as possible given the information available at press time. It will be updated in the travel section throughout the holiday season. Special thanks to Elke Herberger, public affairs specialist at U.S. Army Europe headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, for her assistance with the German market listings. Please e-mail corrections or additions to [travel@mail.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:travel@mail.stripes.osd.mil).

**Boulogne-sur-Mer:** Dec. 11-12

**Bruz:** Dec. 4-5

**Dijon:** Dec. 3-14

**Nancy:** Dec. 6

**Provins:** Dec. 6-7

**La Ferté St. Aubin:** Throughout December

**Laon:** Dec. 10-12

**Colmar:** Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Riquewihr:** Dec. 4-19

**Kaysersberg:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

**Lyon:** Nov. 27-Dec. 24

**Grenoble:** Dec. 4-24

**Metz:** Through Dec. 24

**Nancy:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Caen:** Nov. 30-Dec. 24

**Amiens:** Nov. 29-Dec. 27

**Rouen:** Nov. 28-Dec. 28

**Toulouse:** throughout December

**Lille:** Nov. 24-Dec. 30

**Troyes:** Dec. 10-31

**Nice:** Dec. 10-Jan. 2

**Saverne:** Nov. 27-Dec. 24

**Selest:** Nov. 27-Dec. 24

**Strasbourg:** Nov. 27-Dec. 31

**Munster:** Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19

**Brest:** Nov. 29 to Dec. 24

**Clermont-Ferrand:** Dec. 2-26

**Montbéliard:** Nov. 27-24 Dec.

**Lorraine:** Dec. 1-31 with St. Nicholas procession on Dec. 6

**Besancon:** Dec. 11-12

**Ploermel:** Dec. 4-5

#### GERMANY

**Web site:**

**www.germany-tourism.de**

**Aachen:** Through Dec. 20

**Amberg:** Through Dec. 23

**Annaberg:** Nov. 27-Dec. 19

**Ansbach:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Aachaffenberg:** Through Dec. 22

**Augsburg:** Through Dec. 24

**Baden-Baden:** Nov. 26-Dec. 21

**Bad Kreuznach:** Through Dec. 5

**Bad Mergentheim:** Dec. 16-19

**Bad Münster:** Nov. 27-Dec. 12, Saturdays and Sundays

**SEE MARKETS, PAGE 23**

## MARKETS, FROM PAGE 22

## GERMANY, continued

**Bernkastel-Kues:** Nov. 26-Nov. 22

**Bad Tölz:** Nov. 27-Dec. 24

**Bad Wimpfen:** Nov. 26-Dec. 14, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

**Bamberg:** Nov. 25-Dec. 23

**Bayreuth:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Berlin:** Markets throughout the city, including:

• **Center:** through Dec. 24;

• **Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf:** through Dec. 26;

• **Marzahn-Hellersdorf:** through Dec. 24;

• **Pankow:** through Dec. 19;

• **Reinickendorf:** through Dec. 24;

• **Spandau:** through Dec. 23;

• **Treptow-Köpenick:** Dec. 10-19

**Bernkastel-Kues:** Nov. 26-Dec. 22

**Bonn:** through Dec. 23

**Braunschweig:** through Dec. 28

**Bremen:** Nov. 25-Dec. 23

**Büdingen:** Dec. 10-12

**Chemnitz:** Nov. 27-Dec. 21

**Cochem:** Nov. 27-Dec. 19

**Cologne:** Markets throughout city, including:

• **Rheinpromenade:** through Dec. 21;

• **medieval market at the Chocolate museum:** Nov. 27-Dec. 23;

• **st. cathedral:** through Dec. 23

**Creglingen:** Nov. 26-28

**Darmstadt:** through Dec. 23

**Deidesheim:** Nov. 26-Dec. 19, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

**Dinkelsbühl:** through Dec. 21

**Dortmund:** through Dec. 23

**Dresden:** through Dec. 24

**Düsseldorf:** through Dec. 23

**Erfurt:** Nov. 26-Dec. 22

**Essen:** through Dec. 23

**Esslingen:** through Dec. 22

**Feuchtwangen:** Nov. 27-Dec. 18

**Frankfurt:** through Dec. 22

**Freiburg im Breisgau:** through Dec. 23

**Freudenstadt:** Dec. 3-12

**Fulda:** Nov. 28-Dec. 20

**Gaggenau:** Nov. 28-Dec. 4

**Giessen:** Nov. 29-Dec. 20

**Hamburg:** through Dec. 23

**Hanau:** Nov. 26-Dec. 22

**Heidelberg:** through Dec. 22

**Heilbronn:** through Dec. 22

**Kaiserslautern:** Nov. 26-Dec. 22

**Karlsruhe:** through Dec. 23

**Kirchheim unter Teck:** Dec. 9-19

**Koblenz:** through Dec. 22

**Ladenburg:** Nov. 27-28 and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Dec. 3-19

**Landsberg am Lech:** Nov. 28-Dec. 12

**Leipzig:** through Dec. 22

**Ludwigsbürg:** through Dec. 20

**Magdeburg:** through Dec. 23

**Mainz:** through Dec. 23

**Mannheim:** through Dec. 23

**Memmingen:** Dec. 4-22

**Michelstadt:** Nov. 26-Dec. 19

**Mittenberg:** Nov. 26-28, Dec. 3-5, 10-12 and 17-19

**Münch:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24, markets throughout the city

**Nürnberg:** Nov. 26-Dec. 24

**Oberwesel:** Nov. 27-28

**Regensburg an der Donau:** through Dec. 23

**Reutlingen:** Nov. 26-Dec. 19



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Market-goers check out traditional German switch brooms at a stand in Erbach, Germany.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

It's easy to find yourself surrounded by ornamental holiday beauty at the Christmas market in Strasbourg, France.

**Rosenheim:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Rostock:** through Dec. 22

**Rothenburg ob der Tauber:** Nov. 26-Dec. 22 in medieval walled city

**Rüdesheim am Rhein:** through Dec. 19, Wednesdays and Sundays

**Saarbrücken:** through Dec. 22

**Schweinfurt:** through Dec. 22

**Speyer:** through Dec. 22

**Strasbourg an der Donau:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Stuttgart:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Tauberbischofsheim:** Dec. 3-5, 10-12, 17-19

**Trier:** through Dec. 22

**Ulm:** Nov. 26-Dec. 22

**Wiesbaden:** through Dec. 23

**Wollenbüttel:** through Dec. 22

**Würzburg:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

## HUNGARY

**Web site:** [www.hungarytourism.hu](http://www.hungarytourism.hu)  
**Budapest:** Dec. 1-24, Vörösmarty

## SQUARE

## ITALY

**Web site:** [www.italiantourism.com](http://www.italiantourism.com)

**Bolzano:** Nov. 27-Dec. 23

**Bressanone:** Dec. 2-Jan. 8

**Merano:** Dec. 3-Jan. 7

**Rome:** Dec. 8 through Jan. 6, Piazza Navona.

**Venice:** Dec. 6-24, Santo Stefano Square

**Web site:** [www.latvianet.com](http://www.latvianet.com)

**Latvia:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Riga:** Dec. 1-31

**Web site:** [www.latvianet.com](http://www.latvianet.com)

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**Latvia:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Riga:** Dec. 1-31

**Web site:** [www.latvianet.com](http://www.latvianet.com)

**Latvia:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Riga:** Dec. 1-31

**Web site:** [www.latvianet.com](http://www.latvianet.com)

**Latvia:** Nov. 26-Dec. 23

**Riga:** Dec. 1-31

**Valkenberg Castle:** Nov. 21-Dec. 21

## POLAND

**Web site:** [www.polska-be.com](http://www.polska-be.com)

**Warsaw:** Nov. 29-through December

**Web site:** [www.polska-be.com](http://www.polska-be.com)

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# Tours/Outdoors

## Stars and Stripes

Stripes Travel prints as many upcoming tours and events as space allows. In some cases, organizations will have tours planned beyond the dates shown. To add or change a listing, send it via e-mail at least two weeks ahead of the desired publication date to [travel@stripes.com](mailto:travel@stripes.com). Please follow the format shown, with prices. See our ski calendar for ski trips. If you have questions, call (+49) (0) 6155-60-268.

## Germany

**Baumholder Outdoor Recreation:** Dec. 4, Christmas Market in Rottenburg ob der Tauber, \$55; Dec. 11, Rock Fun Run (starts at 9 a.m.), \$10, min. age 18; Dec. 17-19, Polish pottery and wicker shopping, Boleslawiec, Poland, \$115.



Watch for several running events throughout 2005 in the Baumholder area, all starting at the Hall of Champions. Call DSN 485-7182 or 06783-6-7182 or [armygermany.com/odr.baum](mailto:armygermany.com/odr.baum), html.

**Hanau Outdoor Recreation:** Dec. 4, Frankfurt Christmas market, \$35; Dec. 11, Nürnberg Christmas market, \$49; Dec. 18, Dresden Christmas market, \$49. DSN 322-6015 or on Old Argonne Kaserne, DSN 322-8891.

**Katterbach Outdoor Recreation:** Dec. 4, Heidelberg Christmas market, \$35; Dec. 11, Nürnberg Christmas market, \$49; Dec. 15, Rottenburg Christmas market, Call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225. BOSS (single women) offerings: Dec. 30-Jan. 2, New Year's in Paris, \$250 sign up by Dec. 16 at the Terrace Playhouse. Call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.

**Mannheim Outdoor Recreation:** Nov. 27, paintball, \$15 with your equipment, \$25 with rental.

DSN 381-7215/723 2 or CIV 0621-730-721 5/7232.

## Ramstein (KMO) RTT Destinations

**Unlimited air tours from Frankfurt:** Dec. 24-31, Egypt, \$149 euros in November tour and 1329 euros in December includes flight, hotels, tour, admissions and 3-day Nile cruise; Dec. 27-Jan. 2, Shanghai, China, with hotel, flights, tours, \$199 euros. DSN 480-6330/489-7064/496-7719 or [www.RTTTravel.com](http://www.RTTTravel.com).

**Wiesbaden/Dexheim Outdoor Recreation:** Mondays, intro to scuba, Tuesdays, rock climbing; Wednesdays, swimming; Thursdays, scuba diving; Saturdays, sailing. Sundays, biking, every weekend. Rhine cruise and wine probe. Wiesbaden DSN 337-5760 or CIV 0611-705-5760; Dexheim DSN 334-5818 or CIV 06133-69-818.

**SPANGDAHELM OUTDOOR RECREATION:** Dec. 17-19, Jan.



Vladimir Zhikhartsev of Fairbanks, Alaska, uses a chainsaw Tuesday to form a warrior from big ice blocks during preparation for the upcoming Ice World festival in Lübeck, northern Germany. About 30 artists from 15 countries will show their carved-ice artwork at the festival between Dec. 10 and Jan. 23.



More than 1,000 sheep make their way along Calle Alcalá in Madrid, Spain, on Sunday. Shepherds herd the sheep through the city every year to protest the destruction of the country's ancient routes that were built for herding livestock.

**7-9, Feb. 18-20 and March 11-13** Getald, Switzerland (\$265 dorm, \$340 double room, children under 12 receive 25-percent discount); Jan. 21-23, Feb. 11-13, March 11-13 Feldberg, Germany, (\$275 in double room, discounts available for children under 16). Reservations required one week in advance, those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult, alcohol prohibited on all buses. For details, call 06565-61-7176.

**Spangdahel Information, Tickets and Travel:** Dec. 4, Bavarian castles, \$89 adults, \$79 children; Dec. 4, Brugge Christmas market, \$45 adults, \$42 children; Dec. 4, Frankfurt Christmas market, \$35 adults, \$30 children; Dec. 11, Nürnberg Christmas market, \$55 adults, \$50 children; Dec. 11, Heidelberg Christmas market, \$33

per person; Dec. 11, Strasbourg Christmas market, \$39 adults, \$34 children; Dec. 18, Brussels Christmas market, \$39 adults, \$34 children; Dec. 18, Reims Christmas market, \$37 adults, \$32 children; Dec. 23-26, Prague for Christmas, two overnights, \$395 adults, \$388 children, \$10 early-booking discount on or before Nov. 23; Dec. 30-Jan. 1, Paris, two overnights, \$193 adults; Dec. 30-Jan. 1, Berlin, one overnight, \$195 adults; Dec. 31, Amsterdam Express, \$60 per person; Dec. 31-Jan. 1, Paris, one overnight, \$229 adults. DSN 452-6567 or COMW 06565-61-6567.

**Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation:**

**ation:** Dec. 28, ice skating in Frankfurt, \$10. DSN 337-5760.

## Italy

**USO Naples** offers daily tours. DSN 626-5713.

**USO Rome** offers regular tours, including: Roman Holiday, a four-day tour with three nights in a three-star hotel, **Sundays through Wednesdays** (includes four meals and free guided tour; \$439 per person with discounts available); **papal audience, every Wednesday** (free); Super City Tour, featuring the Parthenon, Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps, **two days a week;** Rome walk, a three-hour walking tour, **two times a week;** a complete view of Vatican City, **six days a week;** a visit into the ancient Christian catacombs below Rome and to St. Paul's, **twice a week;** and walking tour of the Colosseum with a walk through the Roman Forum, **four days a week;** Rome After Dark, 7 p.m. **Friday and Saturday**, includes dinner, **Monuments of Rome seven days a week;** Ancient Rome, includes Capitol Hill, Roman Forum, Colosseum, Basilica of St. Paul's outside the Walls, **seven days a week;** Christian Rome catacombs tour, includes Basilica of St. Mary Major, Basilica of St. John in Lateran, the Ancient Appian Way and Catacombs of St. Callistus, **seven days a week;** Illuminated Rome with dinner, **seven days a week;** Illuminated Rome without dinner, **seven days a week;** Naples, Capri and Sorrento day, includes Naples city tour, Blue Grotto, Anacapri and lunch in Capri, **every day;** Thell day trip, **four times a week.** Call (+39) (0) 6-686-4232 or go to [www.uso.it](http://www.uso.it) for details.



# Let's Go

By JAYNE TRAENDLY

Stripes Travel researcher

## Xmas in Berlin

Getting in the mood for a Christmas market? Berlin, Germany, has 44. It also offers several packages for visitors who want to visit them.

The Hotel Unter der Linden, for example, has organized the "Berliner Lichterkranz" from Dec. 13 to 26. It costs 85 euros per person, double occupancy, and includes two nights' lodging and a goose dinner.

For details on this and other packages, contact Berlin Tourism Marketing at (+49) (0) 30/250 025. The e-mail address is [information@btm.de](mailto:information@btm.de). The Web site is [www.berlin-tourist-information.de](http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de).

Jazz fans in Berlin may want to check out the music sessions in the Grand Hyatt Hotel. From Monday to Saturday, they begin at 10 p.m. in the Vox Bar, which has a selection of 200 whiskies (the largest in Germany) and cigars from Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

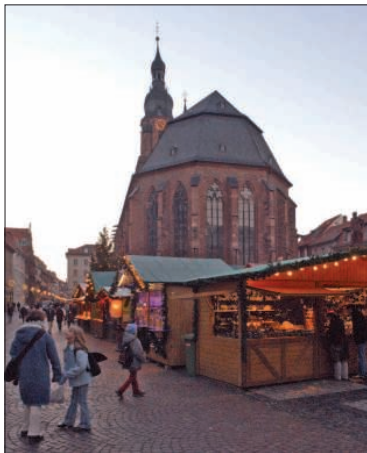
The address is Marlene-Dietrich Platz 2. The telephone number is (+49) (0) 2533 1234. The Web site is [www.berlin.grand.hyatt.de](http://www.berlin.grand.hyatt.de).

## Lent tour

Take a Lenten pilgrimage to the first seven churches of Asia Minor, outside the Holy Land, on a tour organized by the Katie Meyer of the Meyer Group. It runs March 12 to 20. Highlights include visits to sites important both to the Bible and historical events: the coastal town of Izmir; Ephesus (House of the Virgin Mary, Church of Mary, Temple of Artemis — one of the Seven Wonders of the World — and the Greater Theatre, where the apostle Paul once preached); the early Byzantine church in Sardis; the Apocalypse church in Philadelphia; Pamukkale and its spas; the Biblical city of Laodicea; Aphrodisias, the city of the goddess of beauty and love; the Apocalypse church of Pergamum; the Roman harbor of Assos; the port city of Troad; and the city of Istanbul.

The cost is \$1,329 to \$1,399 (depending on number of participants) and includes roundtrip air fare Frankfurt/Turkey; breakfasts, four dinners; eight nights' lodgings; guided tours and entrance fees; air transfers; and licensed Turkish guide.

For reservations, contact Mike Dallas at (+49) (0) 6306-356 or e-mail [mdallas@bund.com](mailto:mdallas@bund.com). Or contact Katie Meyer at 0190 786-3708 or e-mail [meyer@juno.com](mailto:meyer@juno.com). Web site: [www.meyertravelgroup.com](http://www.meyertravelgroup.com).



The Heidelberg Christmas market takes place on three city squares; this is a view of the Marktplatz.



Reflections of the season: An ornament mirrors a scene from the beautiful Christmas market at Frankfurt.

# A taste of German ma

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

**S**ome say the Christmas market tradition originated in Germany, as an outgrowth of winter markets where the townspeople would stock up on provisions for the winter. Whether or not this can be proven, one thing is for certain: The Germans are experts at creating Christmas magic.

We took a stroll through three of the major German markets that put on an annual show of delightful things to smell, see and taste. Go to buy or to stroll, but above all go to experience one of the things Germany does so well.

In Erfurt, as at all Christmas markets, cooks know how to serve a hungry crowd.



## Erfurt

This is only the 154th Christmas market in Erfurt in eastern Germany, but with its location, you would believe it to be much older. Located on the Domplatz, with the city's cathedral and the St. Severin church towering over it, there couldn't be a more dramatic setting. At the foot of the Domberg (cathedral hill) about 200 stands offer food, drink and merchandise. An 80-foot Christmas tree welcomes visitors to the market, and a Ferris wheel offers a great view of the market and city.

Here you can sip *Glühwein*, the hot mulled wine offered at every Christmas market, and eat *Thüringer Rostbratwurst*, a trademarked, long, thin brat from the German state of Thuringia, of which Erfurt is the capital. A real one is prepared only on a charcoal grill, and must be made in Thuringia.

In other parts of Germany you may find "nach Thüringer Art," which means it is made like a Thüringer, but not actually from Thuringia.

Erfurt is also a good place to buy traditional Christmas decorations from eastern Germany, such as nutcrackers, smokers, tree ornaments and the Christmas pyramids that spin from the heat of candles.

## Heidelberg

Speaking of pyramids, this year the Christmas market in Heidelberg will feature a giant one, more than 30 feet in diameter, decorated with figures from the town's history.

Heidelberg's market is spread throughout the old town, but is on three principal squares, the Marktplatz, Universitätsplatz and the Kornmarkt.

The Kornmarkt, with the city's famed castle towering above, is the spot for families. Among the stands selling food, drink and presents are rides for children and a Nativity scene with stables where the kids can pet the animals.

Basket weavers, woodcarvers and goldsmiths practice their trade here—and sell their finished products.

The giant pyramid is on the Marktplatz (market square), along with plenty of stands offering food and drink. St. Nick is also present, waiting to get his picture taken with all the kids, naughty or nice.

The heart of the Heidelberg market is at Universitätsplatz. Between the food stands, many artists offer their works: hand-painted silk scarves, hand-blown glass tree ornaments, paintings, photographs, hand-fashioned leather belts and clothing, and fresh-smelling soaps and perfumes.



We're not sure where Santa is, but his reindeer are at the Erfurt Christmas market.

The children—at least those not spoiled by modern computer games—will enjoy a ride on the old-fashioned merry-go-round that leisurely spins here.

## Frankfurt

Although Frankfurt, with its skyline of skyscrapers is a thoroughly modern city, there is something thoroughly old-fashioned about its Christmas market.



**Above:** The Erfurt market on the Domplatz, with the Mariendom (cathedral) and the St. Severus church serving as luminous backdrops.

**Below:** Eager customers wait for hot drinks to be served at the Frankfurt Christmas market.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

# Markets



It seems to be enjoying the "Glühwein" at the

Maybe it is because it dates to, at least, 1393. Or maybe it is the setting on the Römerberg, between the old city hall (Römer) and the reconstructed medieval half-timbered houses, that the market—despite often being overcrowded—has a cozy, old-time feeling.

For generations, Frankfurters have come here to buy Christmas presents. Today it is still a good place to buy wooden toys and Christmas decorations. Once a very local



affair, the market has become the very international meeting place that the city itself has become. While the omnipresent *Glühwein* is sipped here, this is Frankfurt after all, and the local specialty, hot apple wine is also offered. Cold, how you normally drink it, is an acquired taste for some, but hot apple wine, served here to fight off Jack Frost, is even more so.

Another specialty of the Frankfurt market are *Bethmaennchen*, marzipan-filled biscuit figures, sort of like gingerbread men.

In Frankfurt, as in Heidelberg and Erfurt, Christmas carols waft through the air, played by local choirs and bands. Children cry with glee as they spin about on the rides, or more likely, because they have found that toy that has caught their fancy. The smell of *Glühwein*, wurst and roasted chestnuts fill the air.

Suddenly the spirit of the season grabs you, and the winter blues are gone.

E-mail Michael Abrams at: [abramsm@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:abramsm@mail.estripes.osd.mil).



Stars and Stripes

## If you go

The Christmas markets in Erfurt, Heidelberg and Frankfurt, Germany, all run through Dec. 22.

- The Erfurt market, starts Friday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

- Heidelberg's market is under way, and open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

- The Frankfurt market is under way and open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

— MICHAEL ABRAMS

**Left:** A gingerbread heart on sale at the Frankfurt market bears wishes for a joyful Christmas.







**SKI, FROM PAGE 28**

Switzerland (340 euros); March 26-April 2, Val Thorens, France (485 euros); April 1-3, St. Anton, Austria (205 euros); April 8-10, Lech, Austria (205 euros); April 14-17, Zermatt, Switzerland (295 euros); April 28-May 1, Ischgl, Austria (270 euros); June 16-19, Chiemsee Adventure, Germany (285 euros); July 1-4, Sächsische Schweiz, Germany (265 euros). These are first sign-up prices; prices increase by 10 euros. Flight not included in price of Banff trip.

**GRAFENWÖHR SKI AND SNOWBOARDING CLUB**

**Area:** Grafenwöhr/Vilseck

**President:** Tony Neaverth

**Telephone:** DSN 476-1560, or civilian 0964-1831560

**E-mail:** anthony.neaverth@us.

army.mil or GRAFSKICLUB@hotmail.com

**Membership fees:** \$20 or 15 euros

**Meetings:** 7 p.m. on first and third Thursdays of each month in Italian Restaurant Da Lino in Grafenwöhr.

**Scheduled trips:** Jan. 13-15, St. Johann, Austria (TBA); Feb. 17-20, Dolomites Kronplatz, Italy (TBA); March 18-20, Zell am See, Austria (TBA).

**HEIDELBERG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB**

**Area:** Heidelberg

**President:** Marco Vialpando

**Telephone:** 06202-577-8422 or 06221-57-5352, or DSN 370-5352

**E-mail:** president@heidelbergski.com

**Web site:** www.heidelbergski.com

**Address:** CMR 419 Box 1909, APO AE 09102 or Postfach 105743, 69115 Heidelberg

**Membership fees:** \$30 for adults.

**Meetings:** 7 p.m. every other Wednesday at Hotel Zagreb in Schwetzingen. Next meeting Dec. 1. Free Glühwein mug for members.

**Scheduled trips:** Dec. 12-19, Club Med Cervinia, Switzerland (790 euros); Dec. 18-24/25-26, Arabba, Italy (460-610 euros); Dec. 23-26, Zermatt, Switzerland (425 euros); Jan. 9-15, St. Veit, Austria (380 euros); Jan. 14-17 (MLK holiday), Portes du Soleil, France (275 euros); Jan. 14-17 (MLK holiday), Saas Fee, Switzerland (230 euros); Jan. 28-30, Wengen, Switzerland (225 euros); Feb. 4-6, Kitzbühel, Austria (235 euros); Feb. 4-6, Verbier, Switzerland (235 euros); Feb. 11-13, Crans Montana, Switzerland

(290 euros); Feb. 18-21, Bad Hofgastein, Austria (325); Feb. 18-21, Fims Lax, Switzerland (225 euros); Feb. 20-26, St. Veit II, Austria (400 euros); March 4-6, Zell am See (190 euros); March 18-20, Davos/Klosters (245 euros); March 19-26, Tignes, France (765 euros); April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland (285 euros); April 8-10, Arlberg (210 euros).

**KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB**

**Area:** Kaiserslautern Military Community

**President:** Bob Carper

**Telephone:** 06303-4751

**E-mail:** carperb@msn.com

**Web site:** www.geocities.com/ktownskiclub

**Address:** Bob Carper, PSC 10, Box 825, APO AE 09142

**Meetings:** 7 p.m. on first and third

Wednesdays of month at Kazabara Club on Vogelweh.

**Scheduled trips:** Dec. 19-25, St. Veit I, Austria (400 euros); Dec. 26-Jan. 1, St. Veit II, Austria (400 euros); March 4-6, Zell am See (190 euros); March 18-20, Davos/Klosters (245 euros); Jan. 28-30, Wilde Kaiser, Austria (145 euros); Feb. 11-13, Serfaus, Austria (185 euros); Feb. 17-21, Chamonix, France (430 euros); Feb. 26-March 5, Trois Vallées, France (480 euros); March 18-20, Lenzerheide, Switzerland (210 euros); April 1-3, Verbier, Switzerland (150 euros); April 22-24, Lech, Austria (215 euros). A non-refundable 50-euro deposit required for all trip sign-ups.

**MANNHEIM INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB**

**Area:** Mannheim

**President:** Roseann Drydale

**Contact:** Janet-Anne Boykin

**SEE SKI, PAGE 30**



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# Ski Clubs & Events

## SKI, FROM PAGE 29

Telephone: 06206-75268

E-mail: www.boyninjan@btmail.com

Web site: www.skimisc.com

**Membership fees:** \$25 for singles, \$35 for families.

**Meetings:** Every other Thursday at the Viernheim Tennis Club. (First left coming from BFF Friendship Circle toward Rhein Neckar Centrum.)

**Scheduled trips:** Dec. 11-18, Manleva (Dolomites), Italy (\$30 euros, half-pension, two days with ski test; six-day all-area pass); Dec. 19-25, St. Veit, Austria (price TBA); Jan. 14-17, Portes du Soleil, Switzerland (195 euros, bed & breakfast); Jan. 22-29, Kitzbühel, Austria (330 euros, half-pension); Feb. 18-21, St. Anton, Austria (180 euros, bed and breakfast); April 9-16, Meribel, France (price TBA, slope-side apartments). Prices based on double occupancy unless single supplement is stated.

## PATCH SKI CLUB

Area: Stuttgart

Publicity: Mike Moon

Telephone: DSN 430-5789

E-mail: info@psc-ski.org and kline@eucorn.mil

**Address:** CMR 480, Box 198, APO AE 09129

**Membership fees:** \$30 singles, \$45 families.

**Meetings:** At Patch Community Club at 7 p.m. Meetings on Dec. 1 and 15, Jan. 5 and 19, Feb. 2 and 16, March 2, 16 and 30, April 20 and May 4, 21.

**Scheduled trips:** Dec. 10-12, Davos, Switzerland (220 euros); Dec. 12-19, Club Med-Cervinia, Italy (770 euros); Dec. 19-26, Arberg (Grindon), Austria (680 euros); Dec. 19-26, Arberg II-Alpine, Austria (430 euros); Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Les Menuires, France (660 euros); Dec. 26-Jan. 1, Siegl-St. Veit, Austria (480 euros); Dec. 30-Jan. 2, Verbier, Switzerland (210 euros); Jan. 13-17, Saas Fee, Switzerland (380 euros); Jan. 14-17, Kitzbühel, Austria (390 euros); Siegl-St. Veit, Austria (390 euros); Jan. 28-30, Zell am See, Austria (205 euros); Feb. 4-6, Engelberg, Jungfrau, Switzerland (190 euros); Feb. 18-21, Jungfrau, Switzerland (230 euros); March 4-6, Gstaad, Switzerland (200 euros); March 17-20, Chamonix, France (380 euros); April 7-10, St. Moritz, Switzerland (490 euros); April 9-16, Val Thorens, France (320 euros); April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria (260 euros); May 27-30, Lermoos, Austria (220 euros); May 27-30, Siegl Golf I-St. Veit, Austria (260 euros). All trips are double occupancy.

## TANNENBAUM SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community, Elbe, Baumholder, Mannheim regions (Rheinland-Pfalz) and Spangdahlem

**E-mail contacts:** David Hanavan, david.tannenbaum@skiclub.com; Rick Kane, rickVP@tannenbaum-ski-club.com; Sylvia Warren, sylvia@tannenbaum-ski-club.com; Barbara Campbell, barbara@tannenbaum-ski-club.com; Darla Edmonds, freeheel@tannenbaum-ski-club.com

Telephone: 06301-3478

**Web address:** www.tannenbaum-ski-club.com



Courtesy of Graefwahr Ski and Snowboard Club

**Graefwahr Ski and Snowboard Club members stop for a group pose before starting a day of skiing at St. Veit, Austria. Send your high-resolution ski club photos (minimum 800 dpi) with caption information via e-mail to travel@mail.estripes.osd.mil.**

**Address:** c/o Rick Kane, Im Amstel 2, 67697 Otterberg, Germany

**Membership fees:** \$35 for singles, \$70 for families.

**Meetings:** First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Landsbühl Combined Community Club.

**Scheduled trips:** Dec. 3-5, Obergurgl, Austria (205 euros); Dec.

12-19, Val d'Isère Club Med, France (875 euros); Dec. 19-26, Siegl Ski Week, St. Veit-Alpendorf, Austria (385 euros); Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Dolomites Super Ski Week (630 euros); Jan. 14-17, Chamonix, France (250 euros); Jan. 14-17, Zell-am-See, Austria (240 euros); Jan. 17-19, Crans-Montana, Switzerland (240 euros); Jan. 30-Feb. 5, Siegl Ski

Week II, St. Veit-Alpendorf, Austria (TBA); Feb. 4-6, Gstaad, Switzerland (155 euros); Feb. 18-21, Verbier-4 Valleys, Switzerland (210 euros); Feb. 24-21, Portes du Soleil, France (245 euros); Feb. 18-21, Bad Gastein, Austria (235 euros); March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland (160 euros); March 11-13, Davos, Switzerland (215 euros); April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland (200 euros); April 8-10, St. Anton, Austria (165 euros); April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria (205 euros); Prices based on double occupancy. All trips by bus except the Siegl trips, which are U-drives. U-drive arrangements can be made on other trips. Meals and beverages included on bus trips.

## WÜRZBURG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Area: Würzburg

Acting president: Mike Hall

Telephone: 06109-1181562

E-mail: wksclub@hotmail.com

Web site: www.wksclub.org

**Address:** WISC, CMR 475, Box 1, APO AE 09036

**Membership fees:** 25 euros for singles, 40 euros for families

**Meetings:** 6 p.m. on first and third Wednesdays of month at Zum Kirschenbaum Gasthaus on Würzburgstr. 18 in Rottendorf. Check the Web site for directions and map.

**Scheduled trips:** Dec. 19-25, St. Veit, Austria (535 euros, including lessons); Jan. 14-17, Dolomites, Italy (220 euros); Feb. 18-21, Verbier, Switzerland (220 euros); March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland (190 euros); April 9-16, Trois Vallées, France (200-315 euros); April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria (230 euros).

**BAUMHOLTER:** Dec. 17-19, Jan. 21-23, Feb. 25-27, March 11-13 Interlaken, Switzerland (\$125 for transportation and rental, hostel lodging \$25 per night).

**GIESSEN:** Dec. 13 Garmisch, Germany (prices TBA).

**KATTEBACH:** Dec. 11, Garmisch, Germany; Dec. 24-26, Austria. Call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 0880-83-3225 for prices.

**HANAU** offers ski tours. Call DSN 322-6015.

**KAISERSLAUTERN:** Nov. 27, ski express (TBA, depending on snow conditions) (\$55); Dec. 3-5, Obergurgl, Austria (\$189); Dec. 4, ski express (location TBA) (\$55); Dec. 11, ski express (Jungfrau, if snow is good) (\$55); Dec. 17-19, Laax-Films, Switzerland (\$189); Dec. 18, ski express (TBA) (\$55); Dec. 23-26, Zermatt, Switzerland (\$229); Dec. 23-26, Garmisch, Germany (\$279); Dec. 25, ski express to Garmisch, Germany (\$55); Dec. 26, ski express to Feldberg, Germany (\$55); Dec. 30-Jan. 1, Garmisch, Germany (\$279); Jan. 1, ski express to Jungfrau, Switzerland (\$55); Jan. 8, ski express to St. Anton, Austria (\$55); Jan. 12, ski express to Garmisch, Germany (\$55); Jan. 14-17, St. Anton, Austria (TBA); Jan. 15, ski express to Engelberg, Switzerland (\$55); Jan. 16, ski express to Feldberg, Germany (\$45). For details, call DSN 489-7751 or civilian 0631-536-7751. Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation also offers ski and snowboard rental.

**MANNEIM:** Dec. 18 and 26, Jan. 13 and 20, Feb. 2 and 20, March 12 and 26 and April 2 and 10, Engelberg, Switzerland (\$50); Jan. 8, 17 and 22, Feb. 5, 12 and 19 and March 5 and 19, Feldberg, Germany. For details, call DSN 381-7215 or 381-7232, or civilian 0621-730-7215 or 0621-730-7232; or fax 0621-721653. Mannheim Outdoor Recreation also rents snowboards and performs ski maintenance. A ski tune-up clinic is scheduled for Dec. 4; registration required.

**SPANGDAHLEM:** Dec. 17-19, Jan. 7-9, Feb. 18-20 and March 11-13, Gstaad, Switzerland, \$265 dorm, \$340 double room, children under 12 receive 25-percent discount. Jan. 21-23, Feb. 11-13, March 11-13, Feldberg, Germany, \$275 in double room, discounts for children under 16. Reservations required one week in advance; those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult, alcohol prohibited on all buses. Call 06565-61-7176.

**STUTTGART:** Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Gstaad, Switzerland (\$620 adults, \$340 for ages 12-16, \$310 for 6-11); Jan. 14-17, St. Gallenkirch, Austria (\$270 adults, \$190 ages 14-16, \$135 up to age 6); Jan. 23-30, Shonried, Switzerland (\$590 adults, \$295 children under age 17); Feb. 3, Feldberg, Germany (\$30 with equipment rental, \$15 without); Feb. 5, March 12 and 18 and April 2, St. Gallenkirch, Austria (\$30 with equipment rental, \$15 without); Feb. 18-21, St. Gallenkirch, Austria (price TBA); April 10-17, St. Gallenkirch, Austria (\$590 adults, \$295 for children under 17).



Courtesy of Tannenbaum Ski Club

**Members of the Tannenbaum Ski Club suit up for a day of glacier skiing at the opening of ski season at Sölden, Austria.**

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

# Volksmarch

**H**appy Thanksgiving!  
If you live in the Kaiserslautern Military Community area, hit the trails at the Rainstein Roadrunners' Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot event. See the list- ings for distances and start times.

Miscellaneous short notes about this week's volksmarch events:

• The Wanderfreunde Mönchengladbach e.V. holds its first torch walk Saturday night in the local town of Hardt, Germany.

**Jennifer West**



Start the 6K and 11K courses between 5 and 7:30 p.m. and finish by 10 p.m.

Sunday, the club sponsors a daytime event with the same trail lengths. Start 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., finish by 3 p.m.

Visit the Christmas market in Hardt while you're in the area and even complete another volksmarch on Sunday in Niederkrüchten. Just 35 kilometers away, walk 5 or 10 kilometers between noon and 3 p.m. As the flyer says, "Walk in Hardt in the morning and Niederkrüchten in the afternoon."

• A boot-shaped Glühwein (spiced wine) cup can be found this weekend in Aulendorf, Germany. The 6-, 10-, and new 15-kilometer marches begin both days from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (3 p.m. finish). And after your walk, relax in the local Thermalbad, for a reduced price per your valid start card.

• A multicolored patch featuring St. Jakobus and costing only 2.50 euros is the medal at Hülzweiler, Germany.

• The German walking club in Kirchen-Freusburg features live music in the start hall on Saturday and Sunday. Children will receive gifts at the event and St. Nikolaus will attend on Sunday.

• The Lederhosen aus Röttbach will provide musical entertainment on Sunday in the Kreuzwertheim, Germany, start hall.

• For those of you living in the German Eifel region, the Wanderfreunde Bachtalbach e.V. holds its 49th volksmarching event this Sunday in Landscheid. Trails of 6- and 10-kilometer distances begin between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. No award is offered for this walk; you'll get IVV credit only.

• The Neustadt, Germany, volksmarching event is in the Turn- und Sporthalle on Emil-Rössler-Strasse 2, near the Erge-Gelände. The 5- and 10-kilometer trails start on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (finish by 5 p.m.). A 25-centimeter-tall wooden nutcracker (Nussknacker) is the souvenir; B-medals are available in limited quantities. If you plan to take your children to the walk, consider being in the start at 11 a.m., because St. Nikolaus

Listings come from brochures of events sanctioned by the Internationaler Volkssportverband (International Federation of Popular Sports). These walks are near U.S. military installations. More extensive lists are available at the IVV Web site: [www.ivv.org](http://www.ivv.org).

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
<b>Denmark</b>						
Erritsbo	Sat 0900-1100	-	5	Bakkeskoln	No award	S of Fredericia
Erritsbo	Sat 0900-1000	-	10 & 15	Bakkeskoln	No award	S of Fredericia
Sanderborg	Sun 0900-1200	-	5 & 12	Nybel Skole	No award	NE of Flenburg, GE
Sanderborg	Sun 0900-1100	-	23	Nybel Skole	No award	NE of Flenburg, GE
Sanderborg	Sun 0900-1000	-	30	Nybel Skole	No award	NE of Flenburg, GE

## France

Bischwiller	Sun 0800-1400	F	10 & 20	Maison Assoc. Culture	No award	SE of Haguenau
Wiesviller	Sun 0700-1400	F	10	Salle polyvalente	No award	SE of Sarreguemines

## Germany

Aulendorf	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	F	6, 10, 15	Stadthalle	Glühwein boot cup	BWS, N of Ravensburg
Budenheim	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	BFX	6 & 11	Bürgerhaus	Angel figurine	RP, NW of Mainz
Budenheim	Sat & Sun 0800-1200	BFX	15	Bürgerhaus	Angel figurine	RP, NW of Mainz
Hülzweiler	Sat & Sun 0730-1500	FX2.5	5	Haus Kultur u. Sport	Patch	SAR, E of Saarlaus
Hülzweiler	Sat & Sun 0730-1500	FX2.5	10	Haus Kultur u. Sport	Patch	SAR, E of Saarlaus
Hülzweiler	Sat & Sun 0730-1500	FX2.5	20	Haus Kultur u. Sport	Patch	SAR, E of Saarlaus
Freusburg	Sat & Sun 0800-1400	BCFPXY3	6 & 10	Bürgerhaus	B-medal/Rucksack	RP, SW of Siegen
Freusburg	Sat & Sun 0800-1200	BCFPXY3	20	Bürgerhaus	B-medal/Rucksack	RP, SW of Siegen
Hardt	Sat 1700-1930	BFT	6 & 11	Pfarrheim	Patch	NRW, NE of Mönchengladbach
Hardt	Sun 0800-1230	BF	6 & 11	Pfarrheim	Patch	NRW, NE of Mönchengladbach
Ketsch	Sun 0700-1300	FY	5, 10, 20	Rheinhalle	Pfarrhaus candle holder	BWN, SW of Heidelberg
Kreuzwertheim	Sat 1000-1500, Sun 0700-1300	BFPX	6 & 11	Dresdhalle	B-midi/Model truck	BWN, W of Würzburg
Landscheid	Sun 0800-1400	F	6 & 10	Eifelndhalle	No award	RP, W of Wittlich
Niederkrüchten	Sun 1200-1500	F	5 & 10	Qasthof Luckner	No award	NRW, W of Mönchengladbach
Neustadt	Sun 0800-1400	BFX	6 & 11	Turn- und Sporthalle	Nutcracker	HE, NE of Stadellendorf
Rainstein	Thu 0730-1300	BFX	5 & 10	TU 03 Turnhalle	B-medal	RP, Landstuhlr., & Jahnstr.
Sohnstetten	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	10	Seebergshalle	Boy & bear figurine	BWN, N of Ulm
Teunz	Sat 1200-1400, Sun 0700-1200	F	5 & 10	Hauptshule	Native scene set	OPF, SE of Amberg
Windach/Ammersee	Sat 1000-1400, Sun 0700-1200	F	5 & 10	Schützenheim	Stuffed bear	MOB, E of Landsberg am Lech
Windach/Ammersee	Sat 1700-1900	FT	5 & 10	Schützenheim	Stuffed bear	MOB, E of Landsberg am Lech
Wurmlingen	Sun 0730-1300	BF	6 & 10	Schlosshalle	B-medal/Model truck	BWS, SE of Vill-Schwenningen

## Italy

Breganze	Sun 0800-1000	F	6 & 12	See misc. notes	2 bottles wine	SW of Marostica
Breganze	Sun 0800-1000	F	18 & 25	See misc. notes	2 bottles wine	SW of Marostica
Fagnaga	Sun 0830-0930	FX	7 & 12	Inside the Municipio	Poinsetta (1st 400)	E of Spilimbergo
Fagnaga	Sun 0830-0930	FX	20 & 30	Inside the Municipio	Poinsetta (1st 400)	E of Spilimbergo

## Netherlands

Merselo	Sun 0900-1400	-	10	Zaal "het Anker"	Souvenir	NW of Venray
Merselo	Sun 0900-1200	-	15 & 20	Zaal "het Anker"	Souvenir	NW of Venray
Oirabeek	Sun 0800-1400	-	10 & 15	Jeugdhuis Schepenbank	Sticker	NW of Brunsum
Oirabeek	Sun 0800-1200	-	20 & 25	Jeugdhuis Schepenbank	Sticker	NW of Brunsum
Wintertal	Sat 0800-1500	-	17, 22	Koolmijn van Wintertal	Sticker	N of Genk

## Switzerland

Flawil	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	-	5 & 10	Kulturhalle	Cow glass	St. Gallen suburb
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## United Kingdom

Collingbourne Kingston	Sun 0900-1000	-	10 & 20	Village Hall	Souvenir	NW of Andover
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will make a appearance.

• A sleeping boy and bear figurine measuring 12 x 14 x 15 centimeters is the prize at Sohnstetten, Germany.

• Just a reminder that there is a three-hour gap between the Saturday's Windach, Germany, daytime walks and the torch walks. The 5K and 10K after-noon events begin 10 to 2 p.m. and the torch walks begin 5-7 p.m. Both trails start on Sunday between 7 a.m. and noon.

• Take home a ceramic Pfarrhaus candle holder for completing a 5K, 10K or 20K march at Keitsee, Germany.

• The Breganze, Italy, walk begins in the plaza inside the Bartolomeo Winery.

• Jennifer West's information to mail: Jennifer West at [volksmarch@mail.esrjps.org](mailto:volksmarch@mail.esrjps.org). She is currently Stateside (receiving e-mails), but following Jan. 1, write her at Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2899, Pulaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (MPS).

### GENERAL CODES

<b>B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)</b>	<b>s - Shorter trail noted as stroller-friendly in brochure</b>
<b>C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control points</b>	<b>T - Evening/Night walk, carry a flashlight</b>
<b>D - Shower/Wash facilities at start hall</b>	<b>X - Award available while supply lasts</b>
<b>F - Free refreshment at control points</b>	<b>W - Course suitable for wheelchairs</b>
<b>M - Marathon or long-distance event</b>	<b>Y - Young-Walkers-Tour or Bambini-Liga event</b>
<b>N - Nordic walking event</b>	<b>2.5 - Reduced price of 2.50 euros for start card &amp; B-medal</b>
<b>P - Music at start hall</b>	<b>3 - Reduced price of 3 euros for start card &amp; B-medal</b>
<b>S - Stroller-friendly trails</b>	

### GERMAN STATE AND REGION CODES

<b>BWN</b> - Baden-Württemberg Nord	<b>NRW</b> - Nordrhein-Westfalen
<b>BWS</b> - Baden-Württemberg Süd	<b>NDB</b> - Niederbayern
<b>FRU</b> - Oberfranken (Upper Franconia)	<b>OPF</b> - Oberpfalz
<b>FRM</b> - Mittelfranken (Middle Franconia)	<b>RP</b> - Rheinland-Pfalz
<b>FRU</b> - Unterfranken (Lower Franconia)	<b>SAR</b> - Saarland
<b>HE</b> - Hessen	<b>SCH</b> - Schwaben
<b>MOB</b> - München-Oberbayern	<b>SHH</b> - Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg
<b>NDS</b> - Niedersachsen/Berlin	<b>THS</b> - Thüringen/Sachsen

### VOLKSMARCH WEB SITES

<b>Canada</b> <a href="http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/creation/cv/">www.chebucto.ns.ca/creation/cv/</a>	<b>Italy</b> <a href="http://digilander.iol.it/stevens/walking.html">http://digilander.iol.it/stevens/walking.html</a>
<b>Germany</b> <a href="http://www.dvv-wandern.de/">http://www.dvv-wandern.de/</a> <a href="http://www.dvv-wandern.de/">www.dvv-wandern.de/</a> <a href="http://www.freeyellow.com/members/7/hw/cv/index">www.freeyellow.com/members/7/hw/cv/index</a>	<b>Netherlands</b> <a href="http://www.beamto.nl/csa/northwalks">www.beamto.nl/csa/northwalks</a>
	<b>United Kingdom</b> <a href="http://www.bwv-ivv.org.uk">www.bwv-ivv.org.uk</a>
	<b>United States</b> <a href="http://www.ava.org">www.ava.org</a>

# Calendar

## COMPILED BY JAYNE TRAENDLY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are the latest information available at press time, but are subject to change. We recommend checking with the local tourist board to confirm details of the event before traveling.

### BELGIUM

Telephone: (32) 2/50-40-390  
Fax: (32) 2/50-40-270  
E-mail: info@visitbelgium.com  
MECHELEN: Christmas horse show, **Nov. 26-30**. Mechelen Nekkerhal.  
BRUSSELS: Celebration of 175th anniversary, **throughout the year**.

### ENGLAND

Telephone: (44) 81/846-9000  
Fax: (44) 171/563-0302  
www.visitbritain.com  
YORK: St. Nicholas fayre, **Nov. 25-28**.  
WORCESTER: Christmas fayre, **Nov. 25-28**.  
LONDON: Christmas craft fair and festive table, **Nov. 26-28**. Alexandra Palace.  
BIRMINGHAM: Birmingham tattoo, **Nov. 27-28**. NEC.  
LONDON: New Year's Day parade, **Jan. 1**.

### ESTONIA

Telephone: (372) 641-1420  
Fax: (372) 641-1432  
E-mail: info@tourism.ee  
www.tourism.ee

### FRANCE

Telephone: (33) 1/49-52.53.54  
Fax: (33) 1/49-52.53.00  
www.france-tourism.com  
METZ: Flea market, **Dec. 12** (7 a.m.-6 p.m.), **Dec. 18**. Open 6 a.m.-noon.  
PARIS (Île-de-France): Horse, pony and donkey fair, **Nov. 27-Dec. 5**. Porte de Versailles, [www.comex-po-paris.com](http://www.comex-po-paris.com).  
PARIS: International nautical fair, **Dec. 3-7**.  
DUNKERQUE: Carnival, **Jan. 15-26**.  
NICE: Carnival, **Feb. 11-27**.

### GERMANY

Telephone: (49) 69/97464-0  
Fax: (49) 69/751-903  
www.germany-tourism.de  
MANNHEIM-HEIDELBERG: International film festival, **through Nov. 27**.  
HAMBURG: Dom, **through Dec. 5**. Fair.  
MUNICH: Tollwood festival, **through Dec. 31**.  
KÖLN: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7**.  
DUSSELDORF: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7**.  
MANN: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7**.  
WIESBADEN: Andreas markt, **Dec. 2-6**. Elsassier Platz.

### ITALY

Telephone: (39) 6/49-711  
Fax: (39) 6/448-9907  
www.tourism.com  
FLORENCE: City marathon, **Nov. 28**.  
VENICE: Festa di San Nicolo, **Dec. 14-20**. Murano.

### THE NETHERLANDS

Telephone: (31) 70/370-5705  
Fax: (31) 70/320-1654  
E-mail: info@nbt.nl



A varied collection of Elvis Presley memorabilia, such as his U.S. Army uniform and 1959 pink Cadillac, below, went on display Nov. 18 at a preview of the special exhibition "Elvis Presley in Germany" in Bonn. About 300 objects related to America's "King of Rock 'n' Roll" are included in the show hosted by the House of German History.



www.holland.com/uk  
AMSTERDAM: IDFA, **through Nov. 28**. International documentary film festival.  
AMSTERDAM: PAN Art and antique fair, **Dec. 5-12**. RAI.  
GOUDA: Gouda by candlelight, **Dec. 14**.  
DEVENTER: Dickens festival, **Dec. 18-19**.  
ROTTERDAM: International film festival, **Dec. 23-Jan. 2**.

For a list of tourism offices worldwide by country, go to the Web at [www.towd.com/search.php](http://www.towd.com/search.php).  
A good site to search for events by country is [www.lstc.org/sisp/index.html?fx=home](http://www.lstc.org/sisp/index.html?fx=home). Go to "WorldGuide" and click on "Events."



### SPAIN

Telephone: (34) 91/411-4014/6011  
Fax: (34) 91/564-4988  
www.tourspain.co.uk  
MADRID: Jazz show, **through Nov. 30**. [www.munimadrid.es](http://www.munimadrid.es).  
BARCELONA: Jazz festival, **through Dec. 15**.  
www.the-project.net

### SWITZERLAND

Telephone: (41) 1/288-1111  
Fax: (41) 1/288-1205  
www.switzerlandtourism.ch  
KUSSNACHT AM RIGI: Claus-jagen, **Dec. 3**. Traditional event with masks.  
GENEVA: Fête de l'Escalade, **Dec. 11-12**.

### WALES

Telephone: (44) 1222/48-9909  
Fax: (44) 1222/48-5031  
LLANWRITTDY WELLS: New Year walk in, **Dec. 31-Jan. 1**.

## Best bet

**GERMANY:** Enjoy a magical world unto itself at the Tollwood Festival, Munich's local cabaret celebration, which runs until the end of the year. Located on the Theresienwiese fairgrounds, it offers a varied program including an international Christmas market, Asian cultural program in the Palace of the Dawn, performances of "The Juggler's Sonata" (an acrobatic musical about Mozart in modern times), puppet theater and Tied in Wild Bar-Cafe concerts ranging from salsa and tango to Irish and reggae. The festival culminates with a grand New Year's party. For details, go to [www.tollwood.de](http://www.tollwood.de).

— JAYNE TRAENDLY

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Not just A-Z fares are roundtrip for travel Sept-Dec 15.  
Good for one-way travel.

**Vacations by Air**

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## FACES

## NFL looks to McCartney for super show

Paul McCartney will headline the 2005 Super Bowl halftime show as the National Football League goes mainstream after the controversy over this year's show.

"There's nothing bigger than being asked to perform at the Super Bowl," McCartney said in a statement. "We're looking forward to rocking the millions at home and in the stadium."

"As one of the world's most beloved artists and incomparable live entertainers, Paul McCartney will deliver an inspirational performance," said Steve Bornstein, the NFL's executive vice president of media.



McCartney

## Actress apologizes for late appearance

Salma Hayek has apologized for missing the opening of a new theater in her hometown, saying she arrived late because of delays during the shooting of a movie she's making elsewhere in Mexico.

Hayek, who was born in Coahuila de Zaragoza, Mexico, in the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, had planned to attend the inauguration of a new 17,000-seat municipal theater and stay for a concert by opera star Luciano Pavarotti Friday night.

The 36-year-old actress, who has been in the central state of Durango working on "Bandidos" with co-star Penelope Cruz, later issued an apology to Veracruz radio and TV stations.

Hayek's screen credits include "Frida," "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" and "After the Sunset."



Hayek

## Beach Music Awards announced

The Rickey Godfrey Band took home awards for best group album, song and group at the Carolina Beach Music Awards, which celebrated its 10th anniversary. Craig T. Nelson received awards for best male vocalist, entertainer and collaboration at Sunday's five-hour show. Beach music's version of the Grammy Awards also featured appearances by Percy Sledge and Bill Pinkney of the Drifters.

The awards, in Myrtle Beach, S.C., recognize achievement in the beach music industry, the distinctive brand of rhythm and blues associated with bag dancing, the Carolinas and the Grand Strand. Artists, entertainers, disc jockeys and fans received awards in front of some 2,000 attendees.

## Rocker wants his guitar returned

Former Poison singer Bret Michaels has asked fans to help him find his custom-made guitar, which was apparently stolen at the close of a recent concert.

Michaels' red-and-white Holden six-string electric guitar with a picture of a skull wearing a top hat disappeared during a Nov. 12 concert at McCool's bar in Valparaiso, Ind., according to Michaels' Web site.

The Porter County Crime Stoppers program has offered a reward of up to \$1,400 for information about the theft. A photo of Michaels with the guitar was posted on the singer's Web site. A message said: "This guitar has a lot of sentimental value to Bret and we just want to get it back."



Michaels

## Veteran actors land TV roles

Veteran actors Orson Bean and Charles Durning have taken on TV roles that touch on very different periods in their youths.

Bean, 76, who was blacklisted for a year during the anti-communist fervor of the 1950s, played a former communist sympathizer now suspected in an unsolved 1953 murder case in an episode of CBS' "Cold Case."

Durning, 81, a decorated World War II veteran, appears in CBS' "NCIS" as a man who claims to have murdered a fellow Marine while fighting at Iwo Jima in 1945.

Stories and photos from wire services



Pixar/Disney

When a family of superheroes is forced into hiding in the suburbs, nothing is quite as normal as it appears in the animated adventure "The Incredibles." Bob Parr, aka Mr. Incredible, gives his wife Helen a hand around the house.

# Superheroes' human side

## 'The Incredibles' fleshes out the mundane part of family life

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Superheroes are typically loners, not family guys. The powers of Superman, Spider-Man, Batman make them outcasts from the very society they protect and drives them to hide their powers from even close confidants like Lois Lane, Aunt May and Commissioner Gordon.

But what if Wonder Woman was a soccer mom? Or the Hulk was a workaholic suburban dad who longed for the good old glory days? This is the comic book genre-teasing premise of "The Incredibles," the latest computer animated feature from Pixar that follows the impressive pedigree of "Finding Nemo," "A Bug's Life" and "The Toy Story" movies.

"I just thought it was [a] silly idea for a superhero movie," said writer-director Brad Bird, a veteran of "The Simpsons" who also made the cult-favorite cartoon "The Iron Giant." "The concept is a superhero that is a little past his prime. Is he married? What if he married a superhero and who is that person?"

And what would it be like raising super-powered kids? Can you put the Flash in a corner for being hyperactive? Or ground a teenage Supergirl? These are the dilemmas facing Bob and Helen Parr (also known as Mr. Incredible and Elastigirl) as they try to live with their children as a quiet, normal family following a government ban on the display of superhuman powers.

In "The Incredibles," after a series of accidents in which superheroes caused more problems than they resolved, all so-called "Supers" have gone into a sort of witness protection program to shield them from would-be villains who may seek to exploit the ban on their abilities.

After Bird found that many of his projects had difficulty getting approval from studios and he struggled to balance his career with his marriage and three sons began to envision himself in the same position as his characters. "I was feeling that movies were magical things. I love superhero movies and spy movies and action movies and I love my families, the family that I grew up in and the family that I have now with my wife and sons," Bird said. "It's all the stuff that I love rolled to-

gether into one crazy story."

Mr. Incredible is voiced by Craig T. Nelson, the sturdy patriarch from such movies as "Poltergeist" and the TV sitcom "Coach." He said that, like "Finding Nemo," this superhero story delves beyond jokes and action to explore the modern family dynamic. He liked the idea of a person who wished he could make a big difference in the world, but never realized what a big difference he made in his own little home.

"He's this guy who is absolutely driven to keep people safe, and without that he's nothing. He's lost. He's in a vacuum," Nelson said. "But he does have his family, and he's trying [to] hang on to them the best way he can."

While Mr. Incredible sneaks out at night to rescue people from minor disasters with his ice-blasting old friend Frozone (voiced by Samuel L. Jackson), his wife (voiced by Holly Hunter) juggles their teenage daughter Violet, their troublemaking son Dash and their baby Jack-Jack.

But a villain named Syndrome (Jason Lee) is on the prowl — a one-time comic book geek who's using a fortune earned from inventing gadgets to round up and destroy the heroes he once idolized who shunned him as a pest.

"He is the non-superhero who is holding a grudge," said Lee, who played a comic-book fanatic in "Chasing Amy." "Through those insecurities, he's trying to take over the world and thinks he's better than a real superhero. He's the guy who didn't get the girl in high school, and people made fun of him for being a nerd, and instead of being able to be happy with the power and money he has now, he has to shove it back into everyone's face."

Soon the whole family is united — a la the Fantastic Four — in the fight against Syndrome's mechanized terror, where they learn to disarm weapons of cartoonish destruction while learning to cooperate with and trust one another. Each of the Incredibles has a power that is symbolic about their place in life, Bird said.

**Craig T. Nelson**  
Actor who is the voice of Mr. Incredible

Bird chose a non-actor for the voice of Violet — essayist and pop-culture writer Sarahowell, whose wry gumdrop voice is familiar to listeners of the public radio show "This American Life."

If "The Incredibles" proves to be as big a hit as its Pixar predecessors, Bird said it will be for the same reasons that have made blockbusters out of movies of traditional comic-book heroes — the attention to the human part of superheroes.

"I think that people are fascinated by flawed gods," he said. "I think the idea of powerful beings that have weaknesses of character is something that has always been fascinating, part of mythology, and it's only natural that it would survive to this day under the guise of superheroes."

*"He's this guy who is absolutely driven to keep people safe, and without that he's nothing."*





## OPINION

## Leaving Iraq not as simple as not going in

BY MICHAEL KINSLEY

Los Angeles Times

Has there ever before been a war that so many people disapproved of but so few wanted to stop? Have the reasons for starting a war ever been so thoroughly discredited without turning into reasons for ending it?

The Vietnam-era anti-war movement had an agenda: Bring the troops home. Or, in two words — suitable for a picket sign or a T-shirt — “Out now.”

What seems to be today's anti-war position — it was a terrible mistake and it's a terrible mess, but we can't just walk away from it — was actually the pro-war position during Vietnam. In fact, it was close to official government policy for more than half the length of that war.

Today's anti-war cause doesn't even have a movement, to speak of, let alone an agenda. It consists of perhaps 47 percent of the citizenry — the ones who voted for John Kerry — who are in some kind of existential opposition to the war but don't know what they want to do about it.

Meanwhile, U.S. soldiers die by the hundreds and Iraqis by the thousands in a cause these people (and I'm one of them) believe to be a horrible mistake.

Kerry spent months untangling the knots of his Iraq position while tangling new ones even faster. He pounded George W. Bush over the phantom weapons of mass destruction, and he mocked Bush's confusion of Osama bin Laden with Saddam Hussein. Kerry said, famously, that Bush's invasion

of Iraq was “the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time.” So was he in favor of ending it? No, his position was that he would stop, but not promise, to bring the troops home in four years. Four years! U.S. involvement in World War II lasted 3½.

Bush had a good point when he wondered how, as commander in chief, Kerry could ask American soldiers to die for the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time. Of course, that problem does not vindicate Bush's belief that Iraq is the right war in the right etc. etc. etc.

But Bush's apparently sincere belief does relieve him from needing to explain why he doesn't want the war to end now. Kerry's studiously confused position was not, or not just, a political stratagem. It was an accurate reflection of the views of his constituency. Most of them deplore the war, but only a tiny fraction favor an immediate pull-out. Anyone who opposes the war but isn't ready to demand peace needs an answer to the question, “Why on Earth not?”

There are answers, possibly even adequate answers. But none of them shine with the kind of obvious truth that makes the question unnecessary, let alone uninteresting, which is how it is being treated. The answers fall in two categories, each associated with a secretary of state.

The Henry Kissinger answer is, in a word, credibility. A superpower that announces a goal and gives up without achieving it will not be super for long. In the end, President Nixon and Kissinger added five years to the length of the Vietnam War, and we lost it anyway. Did that add to our superpower



THE FAYETTEVILLE (N.C.) OBSERVER/AP

Capt. Jon Stewart, commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment, gives out a stuffed toy to a kindergarten student at a school in As Sadiyah, Iraq, on Sunday.

credibility? Well, maybe. In the Kissingerian world of High Strategy, a reputation for pig-headed stupidity can be almost as valuable as a reputation for wise persistence. ...

The Colin Powell answer goes by the nickname “Pottery Barn,” referring to the alleged policy of that purveyor of yuppieware that “if you break it, you own it.” In fact, Pottery Barn's breakage policy is much kinder and gentler than that. But it's certainly true that a well-brought-up foreign policy doesn't occupy a country, wreck it and move on like

a rock band checking out of a hotel room. The question is whether at this point we're actually helping to tidy up, or only making a bigger mess.

An American general in Vietnam famously said, “We had to destroy the village to save it.” This has become the definitive expression of the macabre futility of war. Last week, we destroyed an entire city in order to save it (progress), but our capacity to find that sort of thing ironic seems to have become charmed and harmless.

Michael Kinsley is the Times' editorial and opinion editor.

## Modern-day pilgrim's journey no walk in the park

Twice in the last year and a half, I have been in Plymouth, Mass., where the Pilgrims landed (after their first stoppage at Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod).

**Bill Tanneus** Mostly I was just passing through, having previously visited Plymouth as a tourist. But it's impossible to be in historic places without imagining what occurred there. So while I was in Plymouth, I thought about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving. That eventually meant I thought about many of us, because many of us are pilgrims.

The idea of pilgrimage did not start with the English Separatists who came to the New World in 1620. (Nor did the idea of setting aside a day to give thanks.) As the Catholic Encyclopedia notes, the concept of pilgrimage has roots tens of thousands of years old in the idea of local deities with limited authority.

“Hence,” the encyclopedia says, “when some man belonging to a mountain tribe found himself in the plain and was in need of divine help, he made a pilgrimage back to the hills to petition him for his gods.”

To be a pilgrim means to be on a journey, to be searching for a place, a person or even (and maybe especially) for God — something or someone to help make sense of who we are and what we're supposed to be about. To live an unexamined life is never to be a pilgrim.

But pilgrimage can also be more interior in nature, as is the case with someone in my extended family. She has been on a pilgrimage recently back into her childhood to see if she could find the origin of a destructive behavioral pattern she's experienced through

much of her life: When she's enraged, she often simply shuts down emotionally instead of understanding her anger.

Her pilgrimage, aided by a counselor, has led her to various events in her childhood that gave her a deep fear of abandonment. As a result of that fear, she wouldn't risk abandonment but would curl up, shut her eyes and hope everything either goes away or turns out all right.

Because of the discovery she made on her interior pilgrimage, she's now trying to fix that.

We live in what's often called a “therapeutic culture,” in which concepts of evil and sin get truncated into something less scary. In our narcissistic age, the culture encourages us to imagine that to fix ourselves all we need is the right therapy, self-help books, counseling, meditation techniques and, most of all, the right medications. Some combination of those things will allow us to reach the goal of our personal pilgrimage.

And what does the therapeutic culture tell

us that God should be? A personal nirvana, in which all our needs and wants are met.

So when we start a personal pilgrimage, it helps to remember that no matter what the culture says, the true goal is to make us whole (precisely the goal of my family member) so we can be in healthy relationships. The goal is not to find someone or something to blame for why we aren't whole, though it may help to know that, and counseling and medications may be needed along the way.

The religious pedigree of the pilgrimage idea is impressive. Islam requires adherents who are healthy and can afford it to make a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, birthplace of their faith. The Christian Crusades in medieval times were first dreamed up as a way to make the path from Europe to Jerusalem safe for Christian pilgrims.

And Buddhists make pilgrimages to Kapilavastu, Benares and other places connected with Buddha's life. While many pilgrims are familiar with humans going on pilgrimages to seek the di-

vine, Christianity posits the idea of God making a pilgrimage in search of — and to rescue — humanity through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. One reason this story has such pull on the hearts of so many people is its intimacy — describing God as a pilgrim seeking out people.

But, of course, the idea of sacred pilgrimage also gets twisted at times. In early Christian history, pilgrimages were meted out as punishment. This disciplinary system sent countless people off on journeys of terrible hardship to make up for their crimes or sins and to find redemption.

However strange and intricate the history of pilgrimage, it is an idea deeply embedded in the human psyche. We sense some emptiness in us or a profound desire to experience what the ancient Celts called “thin places” where eternity touches time, and we set off on our searches. It's an honorable instinct that deserves our homage at Thanksgiving.

Bill Tanneus is a columnist for The Kansas City (Mo.) Star.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# Horoscope

The moon transits through sensual Taurus just when there is so much for our senses to enjoy! Appreciate the heavenly sights, smells and tastes. Do go slowly, though, putting half of what you think you can eat on your plate — your whole mood will be better. Tensions building toward the full moon tomorrow make social discourse more interesting.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(November 25).** Thrilling developments in your love life bring new hope for personal fulfillment. You are finally able to accept the idea that you deserve romance and adventure in your life — without guilt! Water signs (Pisces, Scorpio, Cancer) draw you in with tremendous affection. A mentor helps you determine a more direct career path in January, bringing a windfall.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

When family gets together, exaggerations are made, inappropriate roles are designated, and old baggage is laid out on the table. And, somehow, this only makes things wonderful. There's nothing like home, sweet home.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

One way to reduce stress is not to give yourself too much time to worry about things. Some adaptation of Parkinson's Law applies: The preparation of Thanksgiving dinner expands to fill the time available for its completion.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Loved ones expect something of you that just isn't what you're about now. When you stretch your idea of what others can add to your life, they do the same for you. Infinite possibilities are born out of your faith in someone.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22).

There is a saint called Theresa known as the Saint of the Little Ways, who believed in doing the little things well and with great love. This is precisely the attitude you adopt now, and you flourish because of it.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

The burden of entertainment falls on you.

You've had your share of shenanigans and will share the stories! Someone near and dear serves as a reminder of how not to behave. This person could use your guidance.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're the expert, but you still need help. Enroll younger and older folks, as multi-generational efforts are luckiest. At the end of the day you feel competent and it's nice to know that others respect your abilities.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Verbalize your thanks, and show your appreciation in action. Your gratitude helps others discover their own. Your thoughtfulness and generosity toward those who don't have as much as you make you truly rich.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Family members may get jealous about who goes where and stays with whom. Happiness is adjusting your expectations. Take care of yourself first, and you'll have plenty of attention to give to others.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

21). Sure, you're fabulous under pressure, but who needs it? When you refuse to obligate yourself, you'll find yourself in the unique position to give joyfully and more than anyone expects of you.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

A glorious realization: There are many ways that you've been provided sustenance for your physical, intellectual and spiritual life — ways you couldn't have dreamed up had you been asked to. Someone out there cares.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

An overriding feeling that the best is yet to come turns out to be more than optimism — it's true. In the meantime, you're doing all you can to give to those who would cry for what you take for granted.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Your domestic expertise and easygoing leadership style will create a comfortable vibe for everyone who congregates around you. You're not judging, and no one is judging you. Being relaxed makes romance possible.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



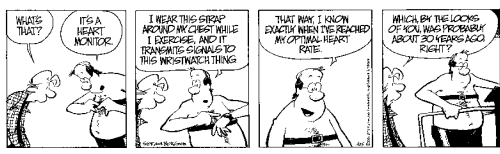
## Calvin and Hobbes



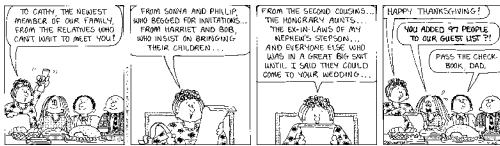
## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



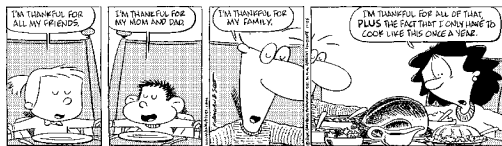
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



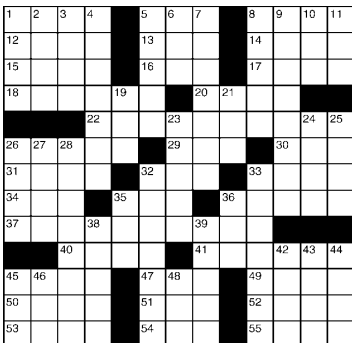
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Hoofbeat sound  
5 It's often served as an unsc  
8 Unscorted  
12 Consort of Zeus  
13 Tulsa sch.  
14 Like some nocturnal birds  
15 Model who wed David Bowie  
16 Feathery accessory  
17 Shaft of light  
18 Blotched critter  
20 Comical Caroline  
22 Not gradually  
26 Kayoes  
29 CSA soldier  
30 Rhoda's mom  
31 "Breaky Heart"  
32 "Krazy —"  
33 Wield scissors  
34 Monk's address  
35 Wonderful, in raspeak  
36 Olympic coasters  
37 Ragtime dance  
40 Cat's comment  
41 Rejoices  
45 Thor's dad  
47 Possess  
49 Exceptional  
50 Hardly muscular  
51 Wade opponent  
52 Always  
53 "I, Claudius" costume

- 54 Jones' partner  
55 Benefit

## Down

- 1 Stylish  
2 Tomy of golf lore  
3 Word with history or hygiene  
4 Very scared  
5 Computer language  
6 Acapulco gold  
7 Barbershop group?  
8 Serious  
9 Making minor adjustments  
10 Carte lead-in  
11 Workout site  
19 Lettuce variety  
21 Center  
23 Conspiration  
24 Falco of "The Sopranos"  
25 Kennel din  
26 Crazy  
27 Beige  
28 Dream prince?  
32 Entry in an index  
33 O.R. strings  
35 — volatile  
36 Bagel topper  
38 Nairobi's land  
39 Get more magazines  
42 Popocatepetl flow  
43 Arduous journey  
44 Withered  
45 Make up your mind  
46 Half of 7-Down  
48 Court

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 11-25

## CRYPTOQUIP

M K Z Q T M D D Q M N  
K W M D O R V A P A D V G A D D Y T  
K W A R F Y M T, Y P Y T F Z D Y  
A D R A R K Y G Z D K M N O A D V  
K Q T O Y F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY NERVOUS ABOUT GIVING VACCINATIONS, THE YOUNG NURSE GAVE IT HER BEST SHOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals N

# Have a happy, stress-free holiday

Today is Thanksgiving, the time we pause to consider the blessings for which we are grateful. In many homes across this great nation of ours, turkeys are being stuffed — just as the people who consume them will be later in the day.

But for many individuals, today and the holidays that follow can be an intensely difficult time, triggering feelings of stress, loneliness and loss. If a person is prone to depression, these feelings can be further magnified.

How can anyone feel depressed at this time of year? It's not that far-fetched. People who are separated from their families often feel isolated because they can't celebrate in the traditional way. Families who have lost a loved one during the holidays often feel the absence especially at this time. Others become depressed because they realize that everyone else is enjoying a warm, idealized family experience, while they are on

the outside looking in. Even people who enjoy the holidays can find them stressful.

This is a time of year when people are stretched for time, energy and money — particularly the latter. They may become embarrassed because they can't celebrate the way they would like to celebrate, or in the style they have in years past.

Some ways to ward off the holiday blues:

- Keep expectations reasonable. Don't take on more activities than you can handle — financially or otherwise.

- Don't overspend. Plan a holiday budget and live within it, regardless of the temptation.

- Do not run up credit card debt, or January will be like a serious hangover.

- And speaking of hangovers: Watch your alcohol intake. Remember, although alcohol seems to be a mood elevator, it is actually a depressant. If you have a

problem with alcohol, get whatever support you need to make it through the holidays.

A final thought: If you're feeling down and want an instant "upper," the surest way to accomplish it is to do something nice for someone else. Call someone who lives alone and invite that person to dinner. Better yet, say, "I'm coming to get you, and I'll see that you get safely home." (Some older people don't drive at night, and those who do might prefer not to be behind the wheel after dark.) Give it a try! You'll be glad you did.

We have so much for which to be grateful this Thanksgiving Day. Those of you with a little time to spare, how about showing our gratitude to veterans by visiting a veterans hospital and raising the spirits of those who have served our country? Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

— Love, Abby

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can contact Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> or Universal Press Syndicate.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**EUQUE**

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**NILEN**

**VENCOL**

[www.jumble.com](http://www.jumble.com)

**JELING**

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PAPER RABBI MODERN DENOTE  
Answer: What she turned into when she got divorced — A NAME "DROPPER"

# A Thanksgiving prayer to share

## Dear Readers:

Today is Thanksgiving. If you know someone who is alone today, please invite him or her to share your Thanksgiving dinner, and make the occasion truly special.

While many of us have a great deal to be thankful for, some of us are less fortunate. We hope all of you are able to find something for which you are grateful, no matter how small. If you can't think of anything, the following prayer may give you some suggestions.

## Thanksgiving Prayer (Author Unknown)

We come to this table full, O Lord, humble and thankful and glad.

We thank Thee first for the great miracle of life, for the eagerness of being human, for the capacity to love.

We thank Thee for joys both great and simple — for wonder, dreams and hope; for the newness of each day; for laughter and song and a merry heart; for compassion waiting within to be

## Annie's Mailbox



kindled; for the forbearance of friends and the smile of a stranger; for the arching of the earth and trees and heavens and the fruit of all three; for the wisdom of the old; for the courage of the young; for the promise of the child; for the strength that comes when needed; for this family united here today.

Of those to whom much is given, much is required. May we and our children remember this. Amen.

**Dear Annie:** Please remind your readers once again to Keep Kids Alive Drive 25. This is a proactive measure to mobilize citizens around the country to respond to the problem of speeding in their neighborhoods. Working with police departments, neighborhood groups, schools, municipal departments, civic groups and families, we hope to create safer streets for pedestrians and motorists alike.

According to the National High-

way Traffic Safety Administration, almost 175,000 pedestrians died on U.S. roadways between 1975 and 2001. Local roads, the streets right in front of most of our homes, are over twice as dangerous as highways per mile driven. Pedestrians are also three times more likely to die when struck by a vehicle traveling 30 mph vs. one traveling at 25 mph.

For the sake of children and adult pedestrians and their families, I ask communities around the country to join this campaign by visiting our Web site at [www.KeepKidsAliveDrive25.org](http://www.KeepKidsAliveDrive25.org).

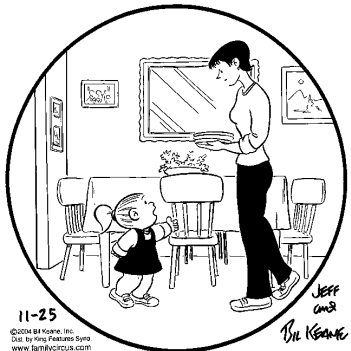
— Tom Everson, Executive Director

**Dear Tom Everson:** We are pleased once again to remind our readers not to drive over 25 mph when traveling through residential neighborhoods. It's worth those extra few miles-per-hour to save a life.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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## Family Circus



11-25

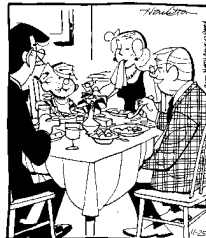
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"Will our company and all of us fit at the same dinner table, or will us kids get demoted?"

## GRAFFITI



## Domis the Menace



"ARE YOU SURE PUMPKIN PIE DOESN'T COUNT AS A VEG-TABLE?"

## © Gary Larson

## The Far Side



## Non Sequitur





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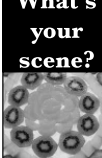
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# St. Joe's no longer in Kansas' league

## No. 2 Jayhawks cruise to 40-point win

BY DOUG TUCKER  
The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — St. Joseph's picked a bad place and a terrible time to start life without guards Jameer Nelson and Delonte West.

With the two stars who led the Hawks to an unbeaten 2003-04 regular season now in the NBA, St. Joseph's was hopelessly outmanned against a No. 2 Kansas team that is bigger, more talented and had something to prove.

Miffed at dropping from No. 1 to No. 2, the Jayhawks shot better than 60 percent and routed last season's Atlantic 10 champions 91-51 Tuesday night.

"We were not ready to play against this level of competition in this setting," said St. Joseph coach Phil Martelli, last season's Associated Press coach of the year. "This is not something you want to go through too often."

Wayne Simien had 20 points and 13 rebounds — his second double-double in two games — as the Hawks came within four points of matching their worst loss, a 123-79 defeat against Cincinnati in 1959.

It was their first regular-season loss since Dec. 28, 2002.

"They missed a lot of shots," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

"We did some good things against them defensively. St. Joseph's is playing short-handed. That wasn't the same team as last year."

Kansas (2-0) drew motivation from dropping in the poll this week following a close season-opening victory over unranked Vermont.

"There was a little buzz in the locker room after that," the 6-foot-9 Simien said. "I was definitely surprised. We kind of used it as a motivation for this game, people not taking us seriously."

But rankings don't mean much and we're excited to get the win." St. Joseph's shot 19 percent in the first half on 5-for-26 shooting.

"We brought boys and we played men," Martelli said. "It was across the board because even if they're freshmen, they're men." Further weakening the Hawks was the dislocated shoulder that's sidelined Pat Carroll, their only returning double-digit scorer.



Kansas forward Wayne Simien, left, tries to control a rebound while defended by Saint Joseph's center Dwayne Jones during the first half at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan., Tuesday.

"They're kind of in a rebuilding mode, losing two first-round picks, and Carroll was also out, one of their best players," Simien said. "So we just capitalized."

When Sasha Kaun hit a short jumper that put Kansas on top 83-41, St. Joseph's was in danger of breaking its record for most lopsided loss.

"I thought the real difference besides talent is that they have played a game," Martelli said.

The Hawks, favored to win their fifth straight Atlantic 10

title, made a futile attempt to keep pace with the taller and more experienced Jayhawks and often seemed to hurry their shots. The Hawks missed their first 10 three-pointers and wound up 2-for-18 behind the arc and 16-for-54 from the floor.

"Psychologically, the ball not going in does affect you," Martelli said.

Simien, who had 25 points and 14 rebounds against Vermont, earned his second double-double in two games with 4-6 left in the first half. He went to the bench with 12:33 to play.

# Cal's focus on making BCS dream come true

BY GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — After refusing to talk about the Bowl Championship Series standings for weeks and weeks, California coach Jeff Tedford finally is willing to admit he's been paying attention.

He still doesn't seem quite comfortable with the campaigning about the confining date at other schools, however.

Everyone knows the four-ranked Golden Bears (9-1, 7-1 Pac-10) are dying for their first trip to the Rose Bowl 45 years — but when first asked about their postseason hopes Tuesday, Tedford slyly called it "the opportunity to go to the bowl game that would be great to go to."

He quickly broke down and acknowledged the Bears' designs on Pasadena. They probably will need a victory over their hurricane-postponed regular season finale at Southern Mississippi on Dec. 4 to stay in position, but Tedford believes his players are excited about the challenge in the complicated standings.

"It's something we need to keep an eye on now," Tedford said.

"That being said, the only thing we can control is how we prepare to play against Southern Miss."

And Tedford won't run up the score to do it. Even with the changes in the BCS format this season to de-emphasize computer evaluations, the nation's top coaches have wrestled with this ethical dilemma again. Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops admittedly padded the final score against Nebraska earlier in the season, but regretted it later.

"We're going to play our hardest, and if we get the fourth quarter and we're fortunate enough to be ahead, we're going to play [the reserves] of our team," Tedford said, noting Cal's 10 scoring edges over its opponents this season. "What do you have to do? Do you have to score 70? Is that worth it?"

Though Tedford is as savvy as any top coach, the Bears know the BCS is well down his list of priorities. Next week's preparations for Southern Miss might include BCS talk for the first time — but only in the context of a trip to the Rose Bowl.

"He really doesn't talk about it with us, except to remind us that it doesn't matter," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "He knows we hear stuff from friends and family, and he knows we watch TV, but nobody on this team is sitting around worrying about the BCS."

The players won't have to worry about anything this week, with two light days of practice followed by a three-day break for Thanksgiving. Even Tedford plans to stay home Thursday — his first day off since last summer.

# Florida freshman leads rout against dad

The Associated Press

Sidney Green could only watch from the sideline as his team got picked apart — by his own son.

Freshman point guard Tarean Green sparked No. 23 Florida to a 90-45 victory Tuesday night over Florida Atlantic, the team coached by his father, a former NBA forward.

Painful loss, proud moment.

"I love my son like any other parent, any other dad would love their kid," Sidney said. "I want what's best for him, and that's why he's here. A great coach, a great system, a bunch of great players on this team and he played very well."

Tarean played 23 minutes and finished with eight assists, as many as any returning Florida player had in a game last year. He also scored eight points in a big first half, helping the Gators (2-0) to an easy victory in their home opener.

"It was weird seeing him over there during free throws and time-outs," the younger Green said. "Other than that, it was like a regular game."

Matt Walsh scored 21 points for Florida. Robert Williams led Florida Atlantic (0-2) with 10.

Gators coach Billy Donovan said the younger Green did well despite being placed in the awkward position of trying to beat his father's team.

"I liken it to someone who leaves their home state and goes back home to play their state school," Donovan said. "Those are tough things."

He handled it pretty well. He played very well right away. We were being pressed and trapped all over the floor, and he had no turnovers in the first half."

**No. 6 Oklahoma State 90, Ark.-Little Rock 65:** At Stillwater, Okla., John Lucas III scored 22 points, Joey Graham added 16 and Oklahoma State (2-0) pulled away in the second half.

**No. 8 Kentucky 73, Ball St. 53:** At Cincinnati, Patrick Sparks scored 20 points and Shagari Alleyne added three second-half dunks to lead Kentucky (2-0).

**No. 10 Michigan St. 104, Wis.-Green Bay 46:** At East Lansing, Mich., Alan Anderson led a balanced offense with 18 points, and Paul Davis had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Spartans (2-0), who reached 100 points in consecutive games for the first time in more than 40 years.

**No. 11 North Carolina 54, Tennessee 81:** At Lahoma, Hawaii, Rashad McCants scored 27 points and North Carolina rode a sharp first half to victory in the semifinals of the Maui Invitational. The Tar Heels (2-1) will play Iowa in the championship game Wednesday.

**No. 12 Louisville 93, Chalmers 63:** At Lahoma, Hawaii, Taquan Dean scored 21 points



North Carolina's Rashad McCants, right, is fouled by Tennessee's Brandon Crompton during UNC's 94-81 win in the Maui Invitational.

and Louisville bounced back from an opening-round loss at the Maui Invitational.

The Cardinals (2-1) will play Stanford for fifth place on Friday.

**No. 13 Maryland 93, Mercer 67:** At College Park, Md., Nik Caner-Medley scored 21 points, and Maryland (2-0) placed four other players in double figures. Chris McRay had 15 points and a career-best nine rebounds.

**No. 14 Mississippi St. 82, UMKC 64:** At Starkville, Miss., Wincome Frazier scored a career-high 30 points and Marcus

Campbell added 18 for the Bulldogs (5-1), who shook off a sluggish start and won their third straight. Lawrence Roberts had 15 points and 12 rebounds while playing with a plastic mask protecting his broken nose.

**Iowa 82, No. 15 Texas 80:** At Lahoma, Hawaii, Pierre Pierce hit a 25-foot jumper with 44 seconds left to give Iowa the lead for good in the semifinals of the Maui Invitational.

Jeff Horner led the Hawkeyes (3-0) with 27 points. Pierce, who had 18 points and seven assists, hurt his ankle on the final play of the game and left the Lahoma Civic Center on crutches. He was taken for X-rays.

Brad Brackman led the Longhorns (2-1) with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

**No. 20 Wisconsin 72, UC Santa Barbara 61:** At Madison, Wis., Clayton Hanson scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half, and Wisconsin (2-0) earned its 30th consecutive victory at home.

**No. 21 Notre Dame 73, Ind.-Purd.-Ft. Wayne 45:** At South Bend, Ind., Chris Quinn scored 15 points and Dennis Latimore had career highs of 12 points and 11 rebounds to spark Notre Dame (2-0).

**No. 25 Memphis 79, Arkansas State 75:** At Memphis, Tenn., Sean Banks scored 28 of his career-high 31 points in the second half, leading the Tigers (4-1) to a lethargic victory. Banks also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Men's  
Top 25  
roundup

# Fighting Irish undeterred vs. No. 1 Trojans

BY TOM COYNE  
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame isn't worried about a crisis of confidence against top-ranked USC, even after 31-point losses two years in a row.

"To the players, the reaction is a lot different," Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham said. "The point differential, I don't think, weighs as much as some other people think."

Willingham apparently was right, because line-backer Mike Goolsby was oblivious to how much the Irish lost by the previous two seasons until asked by a reporter whether it could hurt Notre Dame's confidence heading into the game.

"I suppose, when you put it like that, it's going to hurt your confidence," he said. "You guys bring these things up. I don't realize it. It's a little shocking to hear."

The Irish were shocked by their 44-13 loss to the Trojans two years ago. USC entered that game ranked No. 6 and Notre Dame was No. 7. Bowl Championship Series berths were at stake, and it was expected to be a close game. It wasn't.

Carson Palmer threw for 425 yards and four touchdowns, and USC compiled 60 yards of total offense. Both the passing yards and the total yards were the most ever against the Irish, and many believe it helped Palmer win the Heisman Trophy.

The Trojans weren't quite as dominant last season, but the result was the same. Matt Leinart threw for 351 yards and four touchdowns in the victory.

Goolsby hopes the Irish (6-4) use the big losses as motivation.

"Because that's a beatdown, and you don't want to take that three years in a row," he said.

Defensive end Kyle Rudolph doesn't think the Irish are suffering from a lack of confidence going into Saturday's game against the Trojans (10-0).

"No one wants to hear me say, 'I know that we can win.' Especially with the situation that we're in now," he said. "I know a lot of people don't give us a chance. To me, that bothers me. That's why I want to go out and prove otherwise."



Freshman quarterback Brady Quinn leads the Irish this week against Southern Cal, which has posted back-to-back 31-point victories against the Irish.

The Irish point to the fact that they already have beaten Michigan and Tennessee, when those schools were in the top 10, as proof they can compete with the best teams. Brady Quinn compared Notre Dame's chances to Ohio State's upset victory over Michigan on Saturday.

"They were able to beat seventh-ranked Michigan and salvage their season in some ways," he said.

"Granted, I don't necessarily say we can salvage our season. But I think it would top it off pretty nicely."

Willingham said the Irish need to believe they can defeat the Trojans.

"You have to believe something can happen before it can happen," he said. "It doesn't happen most cases by just hoping and wishing. We've got to take the right approach in there and we have to execute on that approach."

Playing with the right attitude is going to be the key, Willingham said.

"We've got to carry in there a don't worry, have fun, loose attitude, nothing to lose in this contest, and go play some very physical football," he said. "If we take that, the right mind-set, then I think our bodies will be able to perform at a level that we'll be very comfortable with."

# Franchione delivers on promise to A&M

## Win vs. rival Texas would complete one of nation's biggest turnaround

BY JOEL ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Dennis Franchione had promised his second year at Texas A&M would be better than the first.

Franchione has delivered on that, turning around a team that went 4-8 last year to 7-3 this season with a No. 22 ranking. On Friday, the Aggies could top it all with a win over their archrival, No. 6 Texas.

Yet no one is more surprised at A&M's stunning turnaround this season than the coach who laid the foundation for it.

"We've taken a giant step from last year," Franchione said. "Maybe bigger than I was sure we could take in one year."

There were times when even he thought a quick fix was impossible, especially after a slew of lopsided defeats during the school's first losing season in 21 years.

The Aggies lost their final three games in 2003 by a combined score of 168-37, including a 77-0 rout at Oklahoma and a 46-15 home loss to Texas. The season was such a disappointment and the Aggies looked so awful near the end of the year that Franchione later admitted to sobbing after the defeat to the Longhorns.

"It was as tough a year as I've had in this profession," said Fran-

chione, who came to College Station in December 2002 after leaving Alabama.

Franchione didn't expect much from such a young team in his second year — even though every team he'd ever coached showed noticeable improvement after his first season.

Texas A&M lost its season opener to No. 5 Utah by 21 points, but reeled off six straight wins before stumbling in a sloppy overtime loss to hapless Baylor. The Aggies then gave No. 2 Oklahoma a tough game before losing by a touchdown and rebounded with their first win in four years over Texas Tech.

The Aggies have made huge improvements with the emergence of multitalented quarterback Reggie McNeal — fourth nationally in total offense — and the drastic upgrade of a defense that was so bad last season that it was stripped of its longtime "Wrecking Crew" moniker.

They also did it against the nation's toughest schedule: A&M's opponents this year have combined for a 68-34 record.

A&M's quick leap from conference doom to contender only confirmed Franchione's reputation for rebuilding programs. The gap between the Aggies and Texas doesn't seem nearly as large as it did when the winner of today's game will move into second place in the South division.

# Iowa, Ohio State, N. Carolina among schools going bowling

The Associated Press

Four Big Ten teams got their bowl assignments Tuesday, with co-champion Iowa leading the way to the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

Wisconsin is headed to the Outback Bowl, while Purdue goes to the Sun Bowl and Ohio State plays in the Alamo Bowl. Also Tuesday, North Carolina accepted a bid to the Continental Tire Bowl and the Mid-American Conference agreed to send a team to the Silicon Valley Football Classic.

The No. 12 Hawkeyes (9-2, 7-1 Big Ten) earned their invitation to a third straight "New Year's Day bowl" after beating Wisconsin on Saturday, claiming a share of the conference title. Coach Kirk Ferentz was rewarded for his success with a contract extension that will pay him a base salary of \$1.2 million.

The Hawkeyes will play the second-place finisher in the Southeastern Conference.

Wisconsin made it to the Jan. 1 bowl in Tampa, Fla., after losing its final two conference games to miss out on at least a share of the league championship.

The 20th-ranked Badgers (9-2, 6-2 Big Ten) return to the Outback Bowl for the third year, including the 1995 game when it was called the Hall of Fame Bowl. Wisconsin also will face a team from the Southeastern Conference.

The Badgers were 9-0 and ranked fourth before they were blown out in back-to-back losses to Michigan State and Iowa.

Purdue goes to the Sun Bowl for the third time in four years.

The Boilermakers (7-4, 4-4 Big Ten), who have gone to a bowl game in each of coach Joe Tiller's eight seasons, will likely face either No. 18 Arizona State (8-2) or Oregon State (6-5) in the game in El Paso, Texas, on Dec. 31.

Purdue began the season 5-0 and got as high as No. 5 in the AP poll before losing four straight games by a total of 10 points. In their two previous trips to the Sun Bowl, the Boilermakers lost 33-27 to Washington State in 2001 and beat Washington 34-24 in 2002.

Ohio State was selected to play in the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio on Dec. 29 after upsetting No. 7 Michigan 37-21 last weekend.

The Buckeyes (7-4, 4-4) will play a team from the Big 12.

"We're so excited to be heading to the Alamo Bowl. I know our kids are looking forward to it," coach Jim Tressel said. "We look forward to filling up that Alamo Dome."

North Carolina heads to Charlotte, N.C., for a Dec. 30 game against a Big East team, giving the Tar Heels their second bowl bid in four years under coach John Bunting.



Iowa quarterback Drew Tate is sacked by Wisconsin's Dontez Sanders on Saturday. Iowa now to claim a share on the Sun Bowl title and will play in the Capital One Bowl.

The Tar Heels (6-5) closed the regular season with a 40-17 win at Duke, giving them three wins in their past four games to qualify for the postseason.

North Carolina played one of the nation's toughest schedules, earning key wins against Georgia Tech and North Carolina State. Last month, the Tar Heels upset then-No. 4 Miami 31-28, their first win over a top-five opponent.

The MAC will send a team to the Silicon Valley Football Classic on Dec. 30 in San Jose, Calif., to face a team from the Western Athletic Conference, taking the spot contractually reserved for the seventh-place Pac-10 team. The Pac-10 won't have enough bowl-eligible teams to fill its spot.

# Toledo earns spot in MAC title game

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Bruce Gradkowski threw for 338 yards and directed six second-half touchdown drives in Toledo's 49-41 victory Tuesday night over Bowling Green, putting the Rockets in the Mid-American Conference title game.

The Rockets, trailing 27-7 at the half, dominated the third quarter with 28 straight points. They didn't take lead until Gradkowski threw his third touchdown pass, a 20-yard strike to Steve Odum with 2:20 left in the quarter.

Nothing went right for Bowling Green (8-3, 6-2 MAC) after halftime.

The Falcons, who were in the Ford 25 a week ago then dropped out despite not playing, were stopped on all three of their third-quarter possessions after scoring their first five times they had the ball.

Kicker Steve Susham's 41-yard field goal try clanked off the left upright and it all came apart when Bowling Green receiver Steve Sanders was stripped of the ball on a short pass play.

Toledo's Tyree Pollard recovered it at 22:22. Falcon's 22 setting up Jason Parmelee's 59-yard touchdown run that put Toledo ahead 35-27 on the final play of the third quarter.

Toledo (8-3, 7-1) will now play Miami of Ohio in the MAC title game at Ford Field in Detroit on Dec. 2. It will mark the fifth time the Rockets have played in the conference championship game since it began in 1997.

# Starting to sound like a broken record

## With 35 TD passes in 10 games, Manning nears Marino's mark

By NICHOLAS J. COTSONIKA  
Detroit Free Press

Thirty-five touchdown passes. "If I didn't throw another one the rest of the season, that's still the most I've ever thrown," Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning said. "I'd say I still had a pretty good year if I stopped right now."

Unfortunately for the Lions, who host the Colts in the annual Thanksgiving Day game, Manning has shown no signs of slowing, let alone stopping. In fact, he has accelerated.

The way he's going, he won't just break Dan Marino's 20-year-old record of 48 touchdown passes in a season. He will obliterate it.

He's on pace for 56.

"If he stays on track, he's going to challenge that record, which is really an accomplishment," Lions coach Steve Mariucci said. "I don't know if it equates to 75 home runs or what, but it's a large amount of touchdown passes for a season."

After throwing 17 touchdown passes in his first six games, Manning has thrown 18 in his past four.

Thirty-five TD passes in 10 games? You have to go back 17 games for the Lions to equal that many touchdowns. You have to go back 28 games for them to equal that many touchdown passes.

"He's doing some things that only a few guys in history have had a chance to do," Lions cornerback Fernando Bryant said. "Over the last 10 years, he's the most complete player in this league."

After sharing the NFL's most valuable player award with Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair last season, Manning went back to work. In March, he was at team headquarters with quarterbacks coach Jim Caldwell studying his performance.

"He put up some goals of things he wanted to do and ways we could get better," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "That's just the way he approached it."

The receivers studied, too, and Manning has been going over things with them at almost every opportunity this season — in the locker room, in the downtime during special-teams practice. They talk about routes, adjustments, what they're looking for against various coverages.

"That's really what it takes to get things the way you want them," said Manning, 28. "Everybody has good players and high picks, but our offense work and kind of our behind-the-scenes work is really paying dividends now."

Manning has a great rapport with offensive coordinator Tom Moore, who directed the Lions' successful offense in the

mid-1990s, and he is so smart and so prepared, he steps up to the line of scrimmage with the option to run or pass every time — a rarity in the NFL.

"He can call a pass every play," Dungy said.

It might seem like he does. More than 75 percent of the Colts' touchdowns have come on passes. Five receivers have caught at least five touchdown passes. Not only does Manning lead the NFL in TD passes, he leads the league in passing yards (2,960) and passer rating (122.2).

But if the defense gives him a cushion, he will hand off to Edgerrin James. In a 41-10 victory at Chicago last week, Manning threw for 211 yards and four touchdowns, and James ran for 204 yards and a TD.

James makes Manning more dangerous. "It's all about just trying to execute the best play, whether it's a run or pass," said Manning, in his seventh season. "I have no greed or no ego whatsoever about checking the runs if it gets us to the best play. ... If we go up to Detroit and hand it off 40 times, I have no problem with that."

But Manning is drawing attention from the media for his season.

Even Marino, who works for CBS, has interviewed him.

"I can't imagine what it's like for those baseball players," Manning said. "If any-



Colts QB Peyton Manning, who has thrown 18 touchdown passes in his past four games, is 14 TD passes from breaking Dan Marino's season record of 48 set in 1984.

body gets on a hitting streak, trying to go after DiMaggio's streak, or anybody that's flirting with hitting 400, like Ted Williams, that's a lot of games those guys have to deal with those questions."

Manning has been humble.

"The more you think about it, it makes you realize how special the '84 season by Marino was," he said. "I mean, that's a lot of touchdowns. Forty-eight still seems like a long way away right now."

# Some Lions have to scrape to get by these days

By CURT SYLVESTER  
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — Steve Mariucci just wanted to make sure his rookies were prepared for the season. Not Thanksgiving. Not Christmas. Winter.

So the Detroit Lions head coach called his rookies together at the end of practice Tuesday — all 12 of them on the roster and practice squad — and presented each of them the piece of equipment he has found indispensable in surviving a Michigan winter.

A snow scraper.

It started a month ago when

Mariucci met — as he frequently does — with the rookies to make sure they were adjusting well to life in the NFL.

He suggested snow tires and four-wheel-drive vehicles for the Southerners in their first winter up north, and then rookie wide receiver Roy Williams raised a question.

Williams: "What are those things?"

Mariucci: "What?"

Williams: "What are those things?"

Mariucci: "Scrapers."

So, with snow flurries forecast this week, Mariucci decided it was time to distribute the survival equipment.

"I hope this is not a salary-cap cost," he said laughing. "I thought I'd get them one because it's very timely right now, because I think it's coming."

"We talked about how you use them. There were some real good questions. Does that thing scratch my window? That sort of thing. So they're ready for the winter. Some of these guys have never seen snow before."

Williams, who grew up in Odessa, Texas, is among those unfamiliar with snow. He has seen an occasional flurry but never enough to shovel or scrape off a windshield. And if he ever saw ice on his windshield, he found other ways to get rid of it.

"We didn't have scrapers," he said. "We usually poured hot water over it."

"I actually asked Coach Mooh, 'How do you get snow off the car?' That's where all that came from."

Mariucci learned the value of a scraper growing up in Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula. He said he first realized some NFL players had a problem with snow and winter conditions when he was an assistant coach at Green Bay, working with Brett Favre.

Favre grew up in Mississippi and — like Williams — wasn't prepared for winter in the north.

"Favre was over one night for dinner or something," Mariucci

said. "When he was leaving — it was probably December — he had his shorts on, his flip-flops and shirt. He walked out, so Gayle and I were watching him leave."

Favre made it to his four-wheel drive, which was covered with 3 or 4 inches of freshly fallen snow, but he obviously wasn't dressed for snow-removal duty.

"I go, 'We've got to watch this,'" Mariucci said, laughing.

"You think he scrapes his car off? No. He rolls down his window and drives home with his head out the window."

"I yelled at him down the street, but he didn't care. He needed a scraper. That's why these guys need one."



## Top Scores for Week 11

272	lawhawk	Huttler Kaserne
272	GLADIATOR 36	HSC 94 ECB(N)
272	575Porty	Fort Hood, TX
272	staff777	HHOC 501st MI BN
270	Wayne Bratcher	80th ASG NSA DPW
268	seahawksfan	409th bsb
266	warvet27	Camp Arifan
266	Scottie Pimpin	MCAS Iwakuni
266	Caskeyen	CFAY
266	G-Man	1/10th SFG(A)

## Best Overall Scores

1808	STEELEFROGWOOD	MAG-12
1798	glents14	hbc 2/37 ar
1782	arby	European Stars & Stripes
1778	Jaguar One	DoDDs
1762	SPIELMEISTER 04	Hohenfels
1760	Jack58	422 ABS RAF Croughton
1760	Chickybowow	726 AMS
1754	dogboy	374 AMKS
1754	Joe Corleone	Misawa
1752	Allisond	18 CES

See this space for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.





# Lions' Rogers consistently disrupting his neighborhood

BY LARRY LAGE  
The Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Shaun Rogers is in the backfield as often as some running backs.

Whether teams dare to block Detroit's star defensive tackle with one player or follow the trend of double-teaming him, he often rises through offensive lines with a rare combination of size, speed, strength and nimble footwork.

Not much about the Lions has been consistently good this season, but the 6-foot-4, 345-pound Rogers has emerged as one of the NFL's most dominant players.

"I think Shaun Rogers is the best defensive lineman in the game, not just the best defensive tackle," Lions CEO Matt Millen said Tuesday. "Some might be stronger, quicker or bigger, but nobody has his combination of all those things in addition to being as smart as he is."

The reeling Lions (4-6) are expected to be handled easily by the high-scoring Indianapolis Colts (7-3) on game Thursday, but Rogers will make his share of plays.

When Colts quarterback Peyton Manning started preparing for the game, he kept noting No. 92 causing problems for Detroit's opponents.

"He really jumps up on film," Manning said. "He's a real difference-maker on that defense. The offensive line is going to have to account for him."

Dallas coach Bill Parcells said few are as big and disruptive as Rogers.

"Last year for Carolina, Kris Jenkins was a little bit like that, but I don't even think to the extent that Rogers is," Parcells said earlier this season.

Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy, who coached some of the game's best defensive tackles — Warren Sapp and John Randle — when he was in Tampa Bay and Minnesota, said Rogers reminds him of a former Seattle star.

"He's a lot like Cortez Kennedy and some of the bigger, more powerful guys who have really wreaked some havoc in the NFL," Dungy said. "I haven't been fortunate enough to have any of those big massive guys. He's a load in there."

Rogers was honored and humbled when the compliments were relayed to him, but Detroit's four-game losing streak doesn't allow him to celebrate anything these days.

"It's bittersweet," he said. "As a competitor, you want to dominate the team or men — across from you and you want to be noticed around the league for it. But you play this game to win and right now, we're not winning."

Rogers, a Pro Bowl alternate last season, has 46 tackles and 4½ sacks this season, his fourth in the NFL. He also has broken up four passes, recovered a fumble and blocked the fifth field goal of his career.

"He's having a heck of a year, his best year," Lions coach Steve Mariucci said. "He's the leading yard-getter for the Pro Bowl at his position."

When Rogers doesn't make a tackle, he often ties up a lineman or two, allowing teammates to roam free to make the play.



Lions defensive tackle Shaun Rogers has emerged as one of the top defensive tackles in the NFL despite Detroit's four-game losing streak.

"People don't understand that unless they really know football," Detroit defensive tackle Dan Wilkinson said. "This is my 11th year in the league, and he's definitely one of the best I've seen at our position."

Rogers' fantastic season probably will lead to a very lucrative contract.

Detroit probably will have to at least match the deal Carolina gave Jenkins during the 2003 season. The Panthers signed Jenkins — sidelined this season with a shoulder injury — to a five-year, \$31 million contract extension that included a \$9 million signing bonus.

"This is the last year on my contract, but I don't think you're ever totally unrestricted in this game because of the franchise-tag option teams have," Rogers said. "A new contract was brought up early in the year, but that has been left alone for now. I'm just letting that rest so that I can concentrate on playing ball and helping us dig out of our situation."

"I would love to stay here, but this is a business and you have to act accordingly."

Millen declined to talk about specifics involving previous contract negotiations or future discussions with Rogers, but made it clear Detroit wants to re-sign him.

"We've got to get a new deal done with Shaun," Millen said. "He's a guy you definitely want to build around."

## NFL statistics

### American Conference Individual leaders

#### Week 11

##### Quarterbacks

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Int
Manning, Ind.	274	214	266.0	35	7	0
Brees, S.D.	270	176	238.9	12	2	0
Ruehlhuberger, Pitt.	216	144	163.4	9	0	0
Green, K.C.	208	184	155.5	15	0	0
Brady, N.E.	147	103	142.2	8	0	0
Plummer, Den.	231	156	206.0	21	0	0
Carr, Hou.	317	195	254.1	10	0	0
Lefkovich, Jac.	273	177	188.9	9	0	0
Voke, Ten.	171	104	103.6	6	0	0

##### Rushers

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
James, Ind.	220	1051	4.8	40	0
Martin, N.Y.	238	1072	4.5	28	0
Willson, N.E.	201	1000	4.9	44	0
Holmes, K.C.	196	892	4.6	33	14
Brown, Ten.	188	144	52.8	3	0
Tomlinson, S.D.	126	853	3.9	42	0
Johnson, Cin.	222	817	3.7	36	0
Doughless, Den.	174	844	4.9	51	2
Taylor, Jac.	168	75	4.5	22	0
Stacy, Phil.	253	707	4.7	38	1

##### Receivers

Player	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Mason, Ten.	62	746	12.0	37	4
Gates, S.D.	70	713	11.0	29	9
Johnson, Hou.	57	659	11.5	54	4
Ward, Pitt.	78	719	11.0	38	3
Gonzalez, K.C.	56	733	13.1	32	2
C. Johnson, Cin.	60	679	11.3	49	4
Moutts, Buff.	59	679	11.5	49	4
J. Smith, Jac.	51	673	13.2	52	4
Harrison, Ind.	51	637	12.5	52	4
McMichael, Min.	49	584	12.1	52	3

##### Punters

Player	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Lechler, Oak.	43	2066	6.7	48.0	0
Ju. Miller, N.E.	30	1359	6.1	45.3	0
Smith, Ind.	30	1339	6.2	44.6	0
Hendrich, Ten.	46	2010	6.0	43.7	0
Moorman, Buff.	52	2202	49.3	43.8	0
Gardocki, Pitt.	48	2066	56.0	42.4	0
Wron, Den.	40	1939	48.6	42.6	0
Larson, Cin.	60	2044	56.6	42.4	0
Harrison, Jac.	50	2115	49.9	42.3	0
Scifres, S.D.	40	1692	6.0	42.3	0

##### Kickoff Returners

Player	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Clemens, Buff.	35	907	25.9	98	2
Wright, S.D.	37	907	24.5	98	1
Alston, Cin.	18	459	25.5	93	1
McClain, Cin.	17	417	24.5	93	1
Randle, E. Phil.	20	597	29.5	41	0
Moore, Min.	18	464	25.8	94	0
Lewis, Jac.	21	216	10.3	50	0
Moses, Hou.	20	216	10.8	50	0
Parsons, S.D.	20	216	10.8	50	0
Weiker, S.D.-Mil.	22	180	8.2	23	0
Wright, S.D.	20	180	9.0	23	0

##### Kickoff Returners

Player	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Clemens, Buff.	35	907	25.9	98	2
Wright, S.D.	37	907	24.5	98	1
Alston, Cin.	18	459	25.5	93	1
McClain, Cin.	17	417	24.5	93	1
Randle, E. Phil.	20	597	29.5	41	0
Moore, Min.	18	464	25.8	94	0
Lewis, Jac.	21	216	10.3	50	0
Moses, Hou.	20	216	10.8	50	0
Parsons, S.D.	20	216	10.8	50	0
Weiker, S.D.-Mil.	22	180	8.2	23	0
Wright, S.D.	20	180	9.0	23	0

##### Scoring

Player	TDs	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Holmes, K.C.	15	14	0.9	0	60
Bettis, Pitt.	10	9	0.9	0	60
Martin, N.Y.	10	9	0.9	0	60
Bates, S.D.	9	9	0.9	0	54
Tomlinson, S.D.	9	9	0.9	0	54
Wynn, Ind.	8	7	0.9	0	48
Davis, Hou.	8	7	0.9	0	48
Harrison, Ind.	6	6	0.9	0	36
James, Ind.	6	6	0.9	0	36
Lellie, Den.	6	6	0.9	0	36
Pollard, Ind.	6	6	0.9	0	36

##### Touchdowns

Player	TDs	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Holmes, K.C.	15	14	0.9	0	60
Bettis, Pitt.	10	9	0.9	0	60
Martin, N.Y.	10	9	0.9	0	60
Bates, S.D.	9	9	0.9	0	54
Tomlinson, S.D.	9	9	0.9	0	54
Wynn, Ind.	8	7	0.9	0	48
Davis, Hou.	8	7	0.9	0	48
Harrison, Ind.	6	6	0.9	0	36
James, Ind.	6	6	0.9	0	36
Lellie, Den.	6	6	0.9	0	36
Pollard, Ind.	6	6	0.9	0	36

##### Kicking

Player	PA	FG	LG	FG	LG
Vinateri, N.E.	26-28	25-26	45	102	2
Engram, Den.	27-28	19-21	23	77	0
Smith, Min.	14-15	15-15	33	77	0
Kaeding, S.D.	14-15	15-15	33	77	0
Sover, S.D.	18-18	16-16	33	77	0
Dawson, Cin.	18-18	16-16	33	77	0
Janikowski, Oak.	18-18	16-16	33	77	0
Tynes, K.C.	33-34	11-11	51	66	0
Johnson, Ind.	19-19	16-16	33	77	0
Reed, Pitt.	28-28	12-12	51	66	0
Vanderjig, Ind.	19-19	16-16	33	77	0

##### Team statistics

#### OFFENSE

Team	Yards	Rush	Pass
Kansas City	407	173	234
Indianapolis	410	128	280
Denver	354	181	173
San Diego	354	127	227
Houston	351	140	211
New York Jets	337	147	190
Pittsburgh	336	167	167
Jacksonville	329	112	217
Tennessee	324	144	180
Oakland	310	78	232
Cleveland	288	117	171
Buffalo	284	104	180
Baltimore	273	127	146

#### DEFENSE

Team	Yards	Rush	Pass
Pittsburgh	230	77	153
Buffalo	277	107	170
Baltimore	284	103	181
Denver	287	104	183
San Diego	287	104	183
New York Jets	281	103	178
Tennessee	311	119	192
San Diego	313	70	237
San Francisco	320	115	205
Jacksonville	322	105	216
New England	325	106	219
Cincinnati	331	143	188
Dallas	331	143	188
Kansas City	357	146	211
Houston	364	112	252
Indianapolis	374	113	261

### National Conference Individual leaders

#### Week 11

##### Quarterbacks

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Int
Culpepper, Min.	353	248	275	27	5	0
McNabb, Phil.	322	206	248	22	6	0
Orlov, T. Tex.	289	213	215	11	0	0
Favre, G.B.	348	236	282	19	11	0
Bulger, N.Y.	362	219	215	11	0	0
Warner, WGN	268	198	192	16	0	0
Vick, Atl.	219	183	183	15	0	0
Bratton, S.F.	265	165	165	10	0	0
Harris, Min.	29	24	24	10	0	0
Rodriguez, Min.	368	217	256	12	9	0

##### Rushers

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Alexander, Sea.	224	1115	4.9	10	0
Barker, N.Y.	255	1035	5.0	72	9
Portis, Wash.	238	1029	4.3	64	2
Belmont, N.Y.	189	973	5.1	30	6
M. Faulk, S.L.	154	676	4.4	40	0
Smith, Ariz.	181	658	3.6	28	0
Vick, Atl.	89	640	7.2	58	1
Westbrook, Phil.	121	584	4.8	26	0
Dunn, Atl.	147	583	4.0	26	0
T. Jones, Cin.	135	570	4.2	28	0

##### Receivers

Player	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
McNabb, Phil.	58	645	11.3	79	8
Bruce, S.L.	58	605	10.4	38	3
E. Johnson, S.F.	56	647	10.6	25	0
Owens, P. Tex.	58	618	10.6	30	0
Witten, Dal.	57	650	11.4	42	0
Orlov, T. Tex.	51	618	12.1	50	0
Holt, S.L.	53	724	13.7	52	6
Clayton, T. Tex.	53	670	12.6	40	0
Coles, Wash.	52	606	11.7	45	0

##### Punters

Player	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Lechler, Oak.	43	2066	6.7	48.0	0
Ju. Miller, N.E.	30	1359	6.1	45.3	0
Smith, Ind.	30	1339	6.2	44.6	0
Hendrich, Ten.	46	2010	6.0	43.7	0
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##### Kickoff Returners

Player	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
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# Pacers make do; Pistons cannot

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana crowd jumped to its feet with a jubilant roar when Jamaal Tinsley scored off a steal by Fred Jones in the third quarter. After a long weekend of enduring the embarrassing fallout from their brawl in Detroit, the Pacers used a makeshift lineup and gave their fans plenty to cheer about.

Turning in a solid all-around effort, the Pacers handily dethroned the Boston Celtics 106-96 Tuesday night in their first game since learning the severity of the punishment handed down by the NBA to Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal.

"Our heart is a little sore with our top three best players not here," said Jones, who had 16 points and 10 rebounds. "I think the fans filled that void."

In Charlotte, the Pistons had no players back from suspensions stemming from the fight except Ben Wallace, who served the second of a six-game ban, but Rashad Wallace was ejected Wednesday for arguing a foul during the crowd's headbanging into the throwing.

Detroit never found its rhythm and became the first NBA champion to lose to an expansion team in 1970-71, falling to the Bobcats 91-89.

"We're good, but we ain't the championship team," said Maurice Williams, who was suspended for Sunday's game but came back to lead Detroit with 24 points.

"That's over with. They kicked out our starters," said Tinsley, who scored 29 points for Indiana in his return after missing Saturday's game with a wrist injury sustained in the melee, and James Jones had a career-high 22 points and 10 rebounds.

With several Pacers wearing Jackson's and O'Neal's arm bands, they outrebounced Boston 38-20 and made 11 of 13 free throws and dived for loose balls, all to the delight of the fans.

"In a lot of cities, people just come to see stars," coach Rick Carlisle said. "But in this city, people come to watch the game of basketball, and they love it. It just means so much to us as a franchise to get this kind of support in the stadium we're in."

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 20 points, but shot just 6-for-14 from the field.

Paul Pierce, Rashad Wallace blamed the expulsion on the aftermath of the fight Friday.

"It's a technical now for throwing stuff in the stands? I just question if that's official," asked "since when," he said. "It's always been like that," Wallace said. "I knew it wasn't the case, for the simple fact that I did it a couple of times this year and Ben [Wallace] did it."

"That's crazy. I guess it's just a fallout from the other night."

Emeka Okafor had his best game in the professional period, scoring 22 points and grabbing 15 rebounds, and he said the Bobcats became the first expansion team to

## Roundup

beat the reigning NBA champion since Portland and Buffalo defeated the Knicks during the 1970-71 season.

**Wizards 102, Raptors 86:** At Washington, the Wizards won their third straight game under coach Eddie Jordan for the first time with a dominant game on the boards.

Antawn Jamison scored 28 points, Gilbert Arenas had 26 and Washington had a 64-47 rebounding advantage, including 26-13 on the offensive boards.

**Knicks 104, Hawks 88:** Nazr Mohammed had another strong game against the team that traded him last season, scoring 18 points and grabbing 14 rebounds to lead the Knicks past visiting Atlanta.

Stephen Marbury had 16 points and 11 assists — all in the first half — as New York improved to 5-00.

**Trail Blazers 99, Heat 87:** Zach Randolph had 24 points, and Derek Anderson added 19, helping Portland pull away with a 17-8 run in the second half for a win in Miami.

Shaquille O'Neal had 17 points and 13 rebounds, his seventh double-double in the past eight games for Miami.

**SuperSonics 103, Timberwolves 92:** Rashad Lewis scored 27 points, Ray Allen added 24 and Seattle made 15 of 19 three-pointers to win on the road.

Kevin Garnett led the Timberwolves with 16 points and 14 rebounds.

**Nuggets 90, Nets 88:** Kenyon Martin had 22 points and 12 rebounds against his former team, and Earl Boykins hit a runner with 21 seconds left to lift the Nuggets at home.

**Kings 102, Rockets 96:** Peja Stojakovic scored 22 points and Bobby Jackson got 10 of his 18 in the fourth quarter to help the Kings complete a perfect five-game home stand.

Houston lost despite making 52 percent of its shots and getting 29 points and nine rebounds from Yao Ming.

**Lakers 100, Bucks 96:** At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 30 points and the Lakers held off Milwaukee in the final minute.

Reserve Desmond Mason scored 26 points and reserve Mike James added 18 points and 11 assists for the Bucks, who lost their fifth in a row.

**Warriors 115, Hornets 109 (3OT):** Speedy Claxton scored 20 points, including five free throws in the final 15 seconds of the third overtime, to help Golden State beat visiting New Orleans.

Calbert Cheaney scored four of his 18 points in the third overtime period, and Richard Anderson had 26 points and a season-high 12 rebounds for the Warriors.

# 3 arrested for extorting Anthony

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Three men were arrested Tuesday night for trying to extort \$3 million from Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony.

Joelbert Santos and Jason Pabon of the Bronx, and Rodrigo Sanchez of South Orange, N.J., had a videotape that showed Anthony fighting at a Manhattan nightclub in September with a man known as Sugar Ray, police said.

The fight broke out after Ray spit a drink on Anthony's girl-

friend, MTV host La La Vasquez, said Jane Yin, a spokeswoman for Anthony's agent, Calvin Andrews. Ray and Vasquez were once engaged.

No one was hurt in the fight, but the three men demanded \$3 million from Anthony in exchange for the tape. A meeting was set up Tuesday night near Central Park with an undercover police detective posing as a representative for Anthony, said Sgt. Michael Irizarry, a police spokesman.

A check was handed over and Santos, 29, Pabon, 26, and

Sanchez, 36, were arrested and charged with grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property.

"I just found out today that they were arrested. So I'm happy the police handled it the best that they could," Anthony said after the Nuggets' best New Jersey 90-88 Tuesday night.

The second-year forward acknowledged he had been worried about the situation.

"I just had to see something anybody would think about. It is a lot to handle. Things happen for a reason," he said.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		W	L	Pct	GB
New York	4	0	0	0.000	—
Boston	4	0	0	.444	1 1/2
Toronto	4	0	0	.444	1 1/2
Philadelphia	4	0	0	.444	1 1/2
New Jersey	4	0	0	.444	1 1/2
Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	6	0	0	.600	—
Charlotte	6	0	0	.600	—
Washington	6	0	0	.600	—
Orlando	6	0	0	.600	—
Chicago	6	0	0	.600	—

### Western Conference

Southwest Division		W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	8	3	7	.727	1 1/2
Dallas	8	3	7	.727	1 1/2
Houston	6	5	7	.462	3 1/2
Phoenix	6	5	7	.462	3 1/2
New Orleans	10	0	0	1.000	—
Northwest Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	10	0	0	.833	—
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	2 1/2
Portland	5	5	0	.500	3 1/2
Pacific Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	9	2	8	.818	—
Los Angeles	9	2	8	.818	—
L.A. Lakers	7	5	5	.571	2 1/2
Golden State	8	3	7	.538	3 1/2

### Tuesday's games

10:00 p.m. Toronto 96, Boston 90
7:00 p.m. Charlotte 91, Detroit 89
7:00 p.m. L.A. Lakers 86, Atlanta 85
7:00 p.m. Portland 99, Miami 87
7:00 p.m. Dallas 84, Seattle 82
7:00 p.m. Denver 90, New York 88
7:00 p.m. Golden State 90, San Antonio 82
7:00 p.m. L.A. Lakers 100, Milwaukee 96
7:00 p.m. New Orleans 103, San Antonio 90, 3OT

### Wednesday's games

7:00 p.m. Detroit 88, New York 91
7:00 p.m. Chicago 84, Toronto 82
7:00 p.m. Portland 90, Orlando 82
7:00 p.m. Seattle at Memphis
7:00 p.m. Dallas at San Antonio
7:00 p.m. Chicago at Utah
7:00 p.m. Milwaukee at Phoenix
7:00 p.m. Indiana at New York
7:00 p.m. New Jersey at L.A. Clippers
7:00 p.m. Washington at Philadelphia
7:00 p.m. Portland at Atlanta
7:00 p.m. Cleveland at Boston
7:00 p.m. Charlotte at Indiana
7:00 p.m. Houston at Houston

### Thursday's games

7:00 p.m. Charlotte at Denver
7:00 p.m. New Orleans at Phoenix
7:00 p.m. Dallas at Seattle
7:00 p.m. Sacramento at L.A. Lakers
7:00 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Golden State

### Friday's games

7:00 p.m. Philadelphia 95, Portland 88
7:00 p.m. Cleveland 90, Boston 88
7:00 p.m. San Antonio 90, Dallas 88
7:00 p.m. Golden State 90, Portland 88
7:00 p.m. L.A. Lakers 90, New York 88
7:00 p.m. Phoenix 90, Houston 88
7:00 p.m. Charlotte 90, Detroit 88
7:00 p.m. Atlanta 90, L.A. Lakers 88
7:00 p.m. Miami 90, Dallas 88
7:00 p.m. New Orleans 90, San Antonio 88
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William Paulson, 26, describes the brawl that took place at The Palace of Auburn Hills at the end of the game between Detroit and Indiana Friday night, during a news conference in the law offices of Jeffrey Fieger on Monday in Southfield, Mich. At left is attorney Todd J. Weglarz, who was holding the news conference in Fieger's absence. Paulson is among those filing suit in the aftermath of the brawl.

## Two Pistons fans sue Pacers

BY DAVID RUNK

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Two fans sued the Indiana Pacers and players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal on Tuesday, contending they were injured in the brawl at the end of the Pistons-Pacers game.

Lawyers for John Ackerman and William Paulson filed suits in Oakland County Circuit Court in Pontiac, seeking unspecified damages.

Ackerman, a 67-year-old retired auto worker, says he was hit by O'Neal and then by a chair that a fan hurled into the crowd. His suit also names Palace Sports & Entertainment Inc., which operates the Pistons' arena.

"He was knocked unconscious

by the chair," said Todd Weglarz, who along with lawyer Geoffrey Fieger represents the men. "The next thing he recalls is being helped into a wheelchair."

Police released a copy of a videotape Tuesday showing a man who investigators believe threw the chair, and they asked the public to help to identify him.

Fieger, a former Democratic gubernatorial candidate, is known for representing high-profile clients such as assisted-suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian.

Paulson, 26, says he was punched by Jackson and assaulted by Artest. Weglarz said Paulson's family has had Pistons season tickets for about 25 years.

Paulson, who works in real estate, and Ackerman have been diagnosed with concussions from the brawl, Weglarz said.

The NBA suspended Artest for the season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25.

Pistons spokesman Matt Debeck said the team and Detroit were aware of the lawsuits but declined comment. The Pacers did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Oakland County prosecutor David Gorevsky has said the only possible felony charge in the brawl could be against the chair-thrower. He said other charges most likely would be for misdemeanor assault and battery.

Auburn Hills police Lt. James Manning said the investigation could take two to three weeks. Investigators are reviewing videotapes and interviewing witnesses. Artest and other Pacers had not been interviewed, Manning said.

said, investors and customers want to see the guy whose name is on the door address it.

"Stakeholders wanted a no-holds-barred response, and that's what they got [from Stern]," the California-based Carter said Tuesday. "Anything short of what he did would have raised questions."

Last week's brawl spawned a national debate about the behavior of fans and millionaire athletes.

Within two days, Stern banned Indiana's Ron Artest for the season and two fellow Pacers — Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal — for 30 and 25 games, respectively. Six other players were suspended for far lesser periods, four of them for just one game.

The NBA players' union filed an appeal Tuesday on behalf of those players, asking that an arbitrator decide whether the punishments were excessive.

The union's director, Billy Hunter, has apologized for the "reprehensible" behavior in Friday's melee. But he argued during ABC's "Nightline" on Monday that the players were being sacrificed to placate fans and sponsors.

"[Stern] has to demonstrate that somebody's in control because NBA basketball is a multi-billion-dollar industry," Hunter said.

"But, you know, again, I can't sit back as the head of the union and not act or respond in an instance where I think the commissioner's overreacted."

Carter said there is a risk of turning off the league's corporate sponsors if the suspensions are reduced.

Stern "knows that how he handles this and how the league rebounds from this will go a great distance in establishing his legacy and whether the NBA can continue generating cash."

## Players' union wants appeals to go to arbitrator

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Employing an unexpected strategy in an effort to fight the suspensions leveled by Commissioner David Stern, the NBA players' union is seeking to have the case heard by an arbitrator.

The union filed an appeal Tuesday on behalf of Indiana Pacers players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal, who were suspended for their roles in a brawl with Detroit Pistons fans last week.

Artest was banned for the season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25. Union director Billy Hunter has called the penalties excessive, saying a suspension of about 35 games would have been more appropriate for Artest.

Now, Hunter appears to be attempting an end-around to avoid the rule stating the commissioner has sole authority and is the final avenue of appeal — over matters of discipline involving on-court behavior.

"The players' association's efforts to bring this matter before an arbitrator ignores the plain language of the collective bargaining agreement and the consistent past practice of the parties and will amount to a fail," NBA spokesman Brian McIntyre said.

Stern would normally have 20 days to rule on an appeal of an on-court discipline matter, and it was unclear whether the union's appeal strategy would put this case under that timetable.

"The action taken by the commissioner sets a new high-water mark in terms of the kind of discipline he feels he can impose," Hunter said. "I think he has exceeded his authority and should be subject to review and challenge."

In other developments:

■ Two fans sued the Pacers and Artest, Jackson and O'Neal, contending they were injured in the fracas at the end of Friday night's game at Detroit. John Ackerman, 67, says he was hit by O'Neal and then knocked unconscious by a thrown chair. William Paulson, 26, says Artest and Jackson assaulted him.

■ Police released a videotape and asked the public's help in identifying a man who investigators believe hurled the chair into the crowd during the brawl. Oakland County prosecutor David Gorevsky has said the only possible felony charge in the brawl could be against the chair-thrower. He said other charges most likely would be for misdemeanor assault and battery.

■ Artest appeared on NBC's "Today," saying he respected Stern but thought his punishment

was unduly harsh. He used the opportunity to plug a CD he produced for an R&B group and wore a T-shirt and hat emblazoned with the logo of his record label.

The players' union was contemplating taking its case to federal court. A similar strategy failed in 1997 when the union contested the suspensions handed out to four members of the New York Knicks for leaving the bench during a fight in a playoff game against the Miami Heat.

In that case, U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff cited article XXXII, section 8 of the league's collective bargaining agreement establishing the commissioner as the complete and final authority on discipline for what happens on the court.

The language, the judge said, is "so plain, so clear, so unequivocal, so on-point to the dispute that underlies this controversy."

"In that case we were seeking an injunction. We may not pursue that. If we pursue this in federal court," Hunter said, adding the union will argue that since some of the punishable behavior happened in the stands, it should not fall under the definition of "on-court behavior."

"We think the court is limited to the court itself, the 90-by-50 piece of hardwood, and the benches," Hunter said.

In 1998, the union successfully appealed the one-year suspension Stern gave to Latrell Sprewell, then with the Golden State Warriors, for attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo during practice. It was reduced by an arbitrator to 68 games.

The difference between Sprewell's case and the current one is that Sprewell's attack on Carlesimo happened in practice, so it was not considered on-court behavior and was subject to the arbitration provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

The suspensions also could be contested by the Pacers, who have the right under NBA bylaws to appeal the commissioner's decision to the league's Board of Governors.

No NBA team has ever made such an appeal, according to the league.

Pacers spokesman David Bender said the team had not yet decided if or how it might contest the penalties.

Artest bolted into the stands after being hit by a cup thrown by a fan, touching off a brawl in which players exchanged punches with fans, who also threw drinks, popcorn, and other debris at the Pacers.

Jackson also went into the stands and exchanged punches with fans, while O'Neal hit a fan who ran onto the court.

## SPORTS



A&M's turnaround would be complete with victory Friday over Texas, Page 46



## Jones reunion falls into place

## Thanksgiving 'good as it gets' for RBs, family

BY JAIME ARON  
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Thomas and Betty Jones fully appreciate the good health and great timing that's bringing their entire family together on Thanksgiving for the first time in nine years.

Like thousands of families across the country, they'll spend Thursday afternoon watching the Chicago Bears play the Dallas Cowboys. Except there's one big difference: Their sons will be the starting running backs for both teams, Thomas of the Bears and Julius of the Cowboys.

"That's probably as good as it gets," Betty Jones said. "It will be a day we never forget."

The family has been looking forward to this game since Julius was drafted in April. Several things nearly threw off the reunion, but everything has fallen into place.



AP photos

Julius Jones, left, and Thomas Jones, right, will start for their respective teams when the Bears play the Cowboys on Thanksgiving, the first time the entire family has been together for the holiday in nine years. Parents and siblings will split their allegiance.

"This is not the biggest thing in life," says the proud pop, "but it's darn near it." Thomas and Julius are the only boys among seven children.

They've always been extremely close and have shared a love of football.

When they watched NFL games as kids, they imagined being a running back/brother tandem like Joe and Jamie Morris.

Individually, Thomas wanted to be like Chicago's Walter Payton, and Julius looked up to Dallas' Tony Dorsett and Herschel Walker.

Amazingly, each is now starring for those teams.

Only three years apart, they shared a bedroom until Thomas left for college.

They still talk several times a week — except so far this week while preparing for their first head-to-head football game that doesn't involve crayons, folded paper triangles or a joystick.

"That's probably all we used to fight about, Nintendo games," Julius said, laughing. "We were on the same pee-wee football team, and we got our pads the first day. He duped me into trying my pads on and then he'd take me outside and bang me around a little bit. Other than that, we got along really well."

Their bond was strengthened in 2002, when Julius was academically ineligible at Notre Dame. Thomas was going through his own tough times on the Arizona Cardinals and invited Julius to live with him. They sometimes could be found alone in a gym at 4 a.m., channeling their frustrations into weightlifting.

"It would be pretty tough for me to say that I would be here without him," Julius said.

When they see each other on the field Thursday, they'll certainly share a big hug. Just imagining that scene chokes up their father, a former employee at a super-maximum security prison who rarely shows emotion.

SEE JONES ON PAGE 48

## Pacers show some fight



AP photos



Left: Indiana Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley (left) and Boston Celtics guard Paul Pierce battle for a loose ball during the fourth quarter in Indianapolis. Tinsley finished with 29 points to lead the short-handed Pacers to a 106-96 victory. It was Tinsley's first game since the brawl that led to the suspension of several Indiana players. He suffered a wrist injury during that melee. Above: Tinsley displays the number of teammate Ron Artest (91) on the back of his shoe during the game. Artest was suspended for the season. Tinsley also wore wristbands with the names and numbers of suspended players Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal. For details on the game and on ramifications of the brawl, see Pages 50-51.



Kansas hands St. Joseph's one of worst losses ever

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**BIG TEN**  
CONFERENCE  
Bowl assignments doled out for four in Big Ten

Page 46

Colts' Manning on record pace for TD passes Page 47

